

Hafa Adai!

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Construction of Star Marianas facility in Guam airport underway

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
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REPORTER

Construction is ongoing for a "light aircraft facility" for Star Marianas' use at

the Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport in Guam, according to the Guam International Airport Authority.

Star Marianas has been trying for the last couple of years to provide flights

from the CNMI to Guam. Two weeks ago, the local carrier suspended passenger charters to Guam out of a "continued lack of facility," according to president Shaun Christian earlier.

GIAA spokeswoman Rolenda Faasumile told *Saipan Tribune* last week that "construction is underway for a light aircraft facility where scheduled and on-demand commuter services can

be conducted."

She said this facility is separate from the main terminal.

Faasumile said regulatory agency-
See CONSTRUCTION on Page 4

Ogumoro's ex-cop girlfriend, her brother are arrested too

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Police have arrested the girlfriend of former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro and her brother on corruption charges. » **Ogumoro allegedly threatened to sue law enforcers**

DPS acting spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. said yesterday that Ogumoro, 57, was arrested for misconduct in public office, theft by unlawful taking or disposition, and re-
See OGUMORO on Page 4

Separation of CHC, Public Health eyed

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
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REPORTER

The administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos is looking at the possibility of separating the Commonwealth Health Center from the Division of Public Health and it appears a number of lawmakers are amenable to the plan.
» **Torres confirms discussion of issue with Inos**
» **Muña doesn't support separation**

CHCC board chair Jack Torres confirmed yesterday that there are indeed

See SEPARATION on Page 4



GROTTO SURFING

Several tourists, along with their tour operators, check out the Grotto over the weekend. Many took part in the snorkeling and diving activity that was provided. In this picture, a lifeguard assists a tourist in putting on safety and snorkeling gear while others stand at the edge of the Grotto.

JAYSON CAMACHO

INSIDE



NATION

Police say there is no evidence of gang-rape at the University of Virginia.

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ASIA

A U.S. Marine charged with murdering a transgender Filipino goes on trial.

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LIFE & STYLE

George R.R. Martin says he won't let pressure rush his writing.

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Local

Casino commissioners to fly to Vegas anew for training

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

Members of the Commonwealth Casino Commission are set to fly to Las Vegas next month to continue training for the impending opening of a casino on Saipan.

The commissioners early this

month flew to Las Vegas for a three-day training, according to commission chair Juan Sablan.

He said the April training will be longer, and will take one week. He described the previous training as "intensive," combining both on-campus and gaming floor training.

The five-man commission

underwent training at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas. They will be back in April to continue training, Sablan said.

According to its website, the University of Nevada in Las Vegas offers casino auditing and casino management to improve "casino controls, policies, and procedures."

The commission last month completed the roster of commissioners, following an intense scrutiny of candidates.

Early this year, the commission bared plans to undergo the training off-island.

Casino in Garapan

The Inos administration on

March 6 signed an amended casino agreement with Best Sunshine International, Ltd. allowing Best Sunshine to set up a "live" training facility on Saipan.

The establishment of the "live" training facility, which essentially mimics what will happen on an actual casino gaming floor, was not included in the original agreement between the government and Best Sunshine, as detailed in Public Law 18-56 or the Saipan casino law.

The training facility will be

located on the first floor of the T-Galleria in Garapan and will occupy 15,000 square meters of real estate.

Like any casino, the facility will be subject to regulations by the casino commission.

According to Mark Brown, CEO of Best Sunshine, the T-Galleria is ideal for the training facility, considering the number of tourists billeted in hotels around Garapan. He said Best Sunshine will invite tourists and promote the facility.

Brown said the facility will open "hopefully" by June or July.

Lawmakers troop to Kristo Rai church for Aldan memorial

Lawmakers of the 19th Legislature trooped to the Kristo Rai Parish on Tuesday morning to give their final respects to former Northern Islands mayor Tobias Aldan.

Members of the House of Representatives, Senate, and Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, representing the Governor's Office, took turns in giving their respective plaques of appreciation and offering their condolences to the family members of the former mayor.

Mayors, delegates, and representatives of Tinian, Rota, and Saipan also came to present their own commemorative plaques.

Aldan passed away last March 16 at the Commonwealth Health Center at the age of 68.

A House commemorative resolution was also given to the family of the former Northern Islands mayor conveying "the sincere condolences and sympathy of the House of Representatives to Aldan on the occasion of his untimely passing and paying tribute to his services to the people of



Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, center, accompanied by his wife Diann T. Torres, present former mayor Tobias Aldan's widow, Clotilde, at left, with a plaque from the Inos administration recognizing Aldan's service to the people of the CNMI.

the Commonwealth."

The resolution also pays tribute to the life and legacy of Aldan, fondly called "Mayor Toby."

Aldan served as mayor of the CNMI's northernmost municipality from 2010 to the end of his term in 2014. Born on Feb.

9, 1947, Aldan grew up on an island that was still recovering from a war that changed both the geographic and social landscape of the Northern Marianas.

Aldan's desire to serve his islands "led to a 37-year career in government service, including working for the Department

of Public Works, and as public relations officer for the Northern Islands Mayor's Office, a department he himself would eventually oversee."

His son, Francisco Jerome K. Aldan, currently sits as mayor of Northern Islands. (Joel D. Pinaroc)

Muña: Meeting with new HHS regional director a success

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña said her meeting with Department of Health and Human Services Region 9 director Melissa Stafford Jones was successful.

Muña said that she met Jones during her trip to San Francisco, California, earlier this month.

"As you know, Jones was appointed in November 2014 and replaced former regional director Herb Schultz. I find it necessary to introduce myself to Jones, especially since she is responsible for the administration of all HSS programs in

the CNMI," she said.

These programs include Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, HHS Health Resources and Administration, National Health Service Corp., Community Health Centers, and

Maternal and Child Health, Hospital Preparedness Program, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration.

Muña said that CHCC had a strong relationship with former regional director

Schultz and received numerous funding support from HHS.

"We wanted to ensure that we maintained such relationship with Jones. I briefed her on CHCC's progress, challenges, and the trajectory CHCC is taking to improve the health care system of CHCC. CMS regional administrator Stephen Chickering apparently reported our progress to her and she was pleased," she said.

Muña provided Jones with a report on CHCC's progress in the State Innovation Model Planning Grant and discussed the goals of having "universal insurance" for the people of the CNMI.

"The design of the SIM grant takes advantage of the health care system model we have where public health, mental health, and hospital are integrated in one agency. Jones is known to support public hospitals as system of choice for the uninsured," she said.

"I also advised that CHCC is in the process of negotiating our indirect cost and that it is our intent to use HHS as our agency in the negotiations of our rate. An individual from the cost allocation department/branch will be in contact with us soon to work on the negotiated rate for indirect cost," she added.

She said that all in all she got to meet and discuss the issues that will help improve health-care for the CNMI community.



Muña

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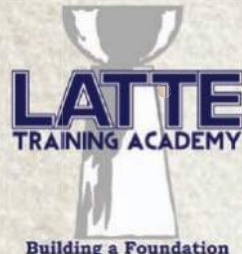
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Littering continues to be a headache for CNMI



JOEL D. PINAROC
Littering continues to be a problem in the CNMI despite the existence of a law that prohibits it.

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

Littering continues to be a problem in the CNMI despite the existence of a law that prohibits it.

The number of apprehensions is also insignificant, despite penalties including stiff fines and hours of community service.

According to Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), the average number of apprehensions and citations since 1997 is a mere six, despite numerous agencies all having an active participation in the enforcement of the law.

Government data shows that, excluding occasional spikes in the issuance of citations, which occurred in 1998 (nine citations), 2004 (20 citations), 2006 (10 citations), and 2007 (23 citations), the average number of citations issued annually since 1997 has dropped significantly.

There are currently seven agencies—Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Saipan Mayor's Office, and the departments of Public Safety, Commerce, Public Health, Public Works, and Lands and Natural Resources—involved in enforcing the anti-littering law and some 75 apprehending officers trained over the years.

The Commonwealth Litter Control Act of 1989 may have to be amended to make it more effective, the lawmaker said.

"Currently, the minimum fine for violations of the Litter Control Act is \$200, plus the possibility of community service not to exceed eight hours for each offense, and the court has no authority to suspend the fines," Demapan said.

"The unintended consequence of these penalty provisions is that Litter Control Officers are often reluctant to issue citations, preferring instead to educate violators and issue warnings, and prosecuting attorneys are often reluctant to pursue community service orders in addition to the considerable fine that the defendant would

have to pay," the lawmaker said.

Demapan's proposed House Bill 19-20 seeks to change some key elements in the Litter Control Act.

"The proposed amendments seeks to encourage enforcement of the Litter Control Act by setting a fine range of a minimum of \$25 to not more than

\$5,000 for littering, providing reasonable flexibility to impose community service in addition to, or in lieu of, monetary fines," he said.

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Quichocho found liable to pay Kim \$387,791 more

» \$2.4M award to Kim now reaches \$2.8M

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Disbarred lawyer Ramon K. Quichocho and his wife, Frances, have been found liable to pay a total of \$387,791.15 to businesswoman Jung Ja Kim for her damages, costs, and attorney's fees.

The award brings to

\$2,799,510.24 the total amount that the Quichocho couple is liable to pay Kim.

On March 28, 2014, a federal court jury reached a unanimous verdict holding the Quichocho couple and his law firm liable to pay a total of \$2,411,719.09 in damages to Kim. The trial in Kim's racketeering lawsuit began on Feb. 3, 2014.

In her order on Monday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ruled that the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act requires that Kim receive treble damages, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees.

Manglona, however, agreed with the Quichochoes that some of the fees and costs requested are inadequately documented.

Manglona amended the

judgment issued against the Quichochoes to reflect the trebling of damages in each of Kim's three RICO claims, from \$25,000 to \$75,000, for a total of \$225,000.

In granting Kim's motion for costs and attorney's fees in part and denying in part, Manglona awarded \$110,625 in fees and \$728.78 in costs to Kim's counsel, Colin M. Thompson.

The judge also awarded

\$48,909.37 in fees and \$2,528 in costs to Kim's other counsel, Robert T. Torres.

Manglona said the RICO statute mandates treble damages to prevailing plaintiffs and that in this case Kim prevailed in each of her three RICO claims.

The Quichochoes, through counsel, argued, among other things, that a plaintiff

may not recover twice for the same injury.

Manglona disagreed. She ruled that prevailing RICO plaintiffs prove the exception, and defendants fail to provide any caselaw suggesting that treble damages in RICO actions are forbidden.

"To the contrary, the treble damages rule is sound," the judge said, citing precedent.

Glushko's Academy ballet concert this weekend

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
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REPORTER

Glushko's Academy and the Performing Arts Society will be hosting a "Ballet and Contemporary Dance Concert" this Saturday and Sunday, March 28 and 29, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Anna Glushko, creative director and choreographer of Glushko Academy, said the concert will start at 7pm on both days.

Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for children ages 3 to 12 years old. They are sold at 360 Restaurant, Shenanigans, La Tratorria, the Shell gas station on Middle Road, Puerto Rico Shell gas station, and Su-supe Shell gas station.

This weekend's show will feature world-class ballet stars Alexey Nasadovich, Margarita Radian, and their daughter performing an excerpt of the *Swan Lake*, a ballet based on a Russian folktale that tells the story of a princess turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer's curse. It will also include performances of over 40 students of Glushko's Academy.

Glushko said the ballet stars recently arrived from Paris,



France. They have been touring in almost every country and the CNMI is lucky to have world-class ballet profession-

als once again performing for the community.

"We should feel special to have such a high level of both

World-class ballet stars Alexey Nasadovich lifts Margarita Radian.
JAYSON CAMACHO

experienced and talented professionals, because this rarely happens. We asked them to visit us this year that's how they came to Saipan to join us in this weekend's concert," she said.

Radian said they have been to Saipan five times. They performed in one of Glushko's Academy's concert back in 2008 at Palms Resort Saipan, including performances in past concerts at the American Memorial Park.

"This year, aside from the *Swan Lake* performance, we will have a contemporary performance. We brought two new numbers that no one has ever seen yet, and one of that numbers we will be performing together. This is contemporary choreography of the 21st century," Radian said.

Nasadovich said they are currently staying at the Mango Resort and enjoying the numerous amenities the hotel provides.

Both Radian and Nasadovich said the community can expect a world-class performance this weekend.

SEPARATION

From Page 1

discussions on splitting up the hospital and the public health division.

He said he will be meeting with Inos today but added that he is not in favor of separating CHCC into two entities.

"There were talks about this so I am meeting the governor tomorrow. My position on this is that I would like to see both together," Torres said.

"Status quo is preferred. I'd like to see that it remains under the corporation. Some members of the 19th Legislature want to see the two separated and I think the governor is leaning toward it. I want to explain to the governor to see that it remains as is. [CHCC chief executive officer] Esther Muña and I seem to be in the same agreement and we would like to see the two remain as is and once we're basically settled down, we can discuss separation. But not at this time. My personal preference would be for DPH and the hospital to be as is," Torres said.

He confirmed as well that there are still no concrete details about the proposal, like a possible legislation being introduced or an executive order being drafted.

Press secretary Ivan Blanco declined to comment.

Muña said yesterday evening that CHCC doesn't support separating CHCC and DPH.

"One of the things we're working on is the universal

health insurance under the State Innovation Model grant and this takes into account the integration of DPH and the corporation," Muña said.

The SIM grant takes advantage of the healthcare system model that CHCC has where public health, mental health, and the hospital are integrated in one agency.

"Public Health Service Corp. even recommended that they were actually very impressed about the universal insurance and that this is the kind of model everyone is looking into and it works better that way," she said.

Muña said that in her meeting with Melissa Stafford Jones, the regional director for Region 9 under the Department of Health and Human Services, Jones said universal insurance through the SIM grant is the kind of model they want to see.

"Another thing is that if you really look at the other jurisdictions or states, one of the struggles they have is that public health and hospital have no integration due to miscommunication and coinciding responsibilities. With the limited funding we have, integration is the best model for it," Muña said.

"When I discuss all kinds of issues with health, we can easily call upon the provider under Public Health. This just puts into perspective with us working together and we all have the same mission toward having better health for the people. It makes sense that the integration should stay and it is necessary," she said.

OGUMORO

From Page 1

moval of government property.

Katherine M. Manglona, 43, a former police officer, was arrested for theft by unlawful taking or disposition, and conspiracy to commit theft by unlawful taking or disposition.

Herman M. Manglona, 45, was arrested for receiving stolen property and conspiracy to commit theft by unlawful taking or disposition.

Ogumoro and the Manglonas are currently in jail at the Department of Corrections. Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo issued the arrest warrants and imposed a \$5,000 cash bail for each.

The three are expected to be taken to Superior Court today, Wednesday, for their initial court appearance.

Blas said that members of the CNMI Public Corruption and White Collar Crimes Task Force, with law enforcement tactical support from the DPS' Special Enforcement Action

Section, arrested Ogumoro and Katherine Manglona at Smiling Cove Marina on Monday at 7:17pm.

Blas said the arrests were carried out without incident but Ogumoro, allegedly speaking in a loud and angry tone, threatened to sue the law enforcement officers and reminded them to do their jobs.

DPS Boating Safety officers then transported the arresting officers to Tinian, where they served the arrest warrant on Herman Manglona at a relative's house in Carolina Heights yesterday at 9:40am. The officers then brought Herman Manglona to Saipan via a DPS boat.

Blas said DPS aided the Office of the Public Auditor in the investigation.

DPS, however, deferred to OPA for comments about details of the investigation.

Sources, however, disclosed that there is one case against Ogumoro and Katherine Manglona, while a separate case is against Ogumoro and Herman Manglona.

Ogumoro and Katherine

Manglona were allegedly using a couple of computers or laptops belonging to DPS at their True North Bar and Grill in Garapan.

Ogumoro and Herman Manglona, on the other hand, allegedly conspired to fix a DPS car and sell it as "scrap," sources said.

The theft of government property allegedly occurred when Ogumoro served as deputy commissioner and acting commissioner at DPS.

In a statement yesterday, DPS Commissioner James C. DeLeon Guerrero said there were no special procedures implemented in Ogumoro's arrest.

However, given Ogumoro's criminal history, he is considered a high-risk offender and so special precautions were undertaken, DeLeon Guerrero said.

"The fact that he is a former DPS official does not and will not warrant any special circumstance or treatment on the part of participating law enforcement agencies," DeLeon Guerrero said.

He said DPS will not disclose how many law enforcement of-

ficers participated in the operation in order to avoid compromising future high-risk offender apprehension missions.

"These individuals are not employees of the DPS and therefore the DPS will take no further action than our department's continued cooperation and participation with activities being carried out by the [Public Corruption and White Collar Crimes Task Force]," he said.

The task force is primarily composed of law enforcement investigative personnel employed by DPS and OPA.

In March 2013, police handed Ogumoro a termination letter as DPS deputy commissioner and was subsequently placed under house arrest in connection with the charges that he shielded then-attorney general Edward Buckingham from being served with penal summons.

Ogumoro has a pending criminal case after OPA charged him with 15 criminal offenses for his role in, among other things, shielding Buckingham in August 2012.

CONSTRUCTION

From Page 1

cies—Guam Customs and Quarantine, and Agriculture in particular—are involved.

She said these agencies are involved not only in the construction but also in operations, because "inspection and clearance are required for passengers coming from the CNMI."

Details on any interim measures were not provided by GIAA as of press time.

GIAA had told CNMI representatives and Star Marianas that an interim facility would be provided by the end of February. But according to Christian and Rota treasurer Frank Atalig last week, they have yet to hear from GIAA.

According to Christian, GIAA had proposed to put "a

temporary 40-foot air-conditioned container in front" of a previously proposed cargo building to be renovated for their use.

Phase 1 of the proposed plan was to get the 40-foot container up, so there could be an alternative Guam Customs Access point; Phase 2 was to remodel the cargo building so they could have a permanent Customs clearance area; and Phase 3 was to open up a passenger check-in area, with a small waiting area for passengers, Christian said.

The airlines also dropped their passenger charters due to a new ground-handling service requirement from GIAA that would effectively boost the cost of escorting passengers to the Guam airport to "nearly double" their current \$40 per passenger they pay, according to Christian.

Federal agencies propose to list green sea turtle as endangered

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

As part of an oceans-ranging proposed rule, federal fishery agencies say the green sea turtle in the CNMI is "endangered."

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published in the *Federal Register* on Monday a proposed rule that would redefine the current listing into 11 distinct population segments, or DPSs.

The Endangered Species Act currently lists these turtles as threatened. But under the proposed rule, the Services find that eight of these population segments qualify as threatened,

and three as endangered.

The Services propose endangered DPSs to include the Mediterranean, Central West Pacific, and Central South Pacific.

The CNMI falls in the CWP with Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Guam, and a portion of Japan.

According to a CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resource Sea Turtle program update last year, 660 green turtles have been hand-captured, tagged, and released on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota waters since 2005.

'Increasing threats'

In the Central West Pacific, the

Services have found low nesting levels throughout the area's 51 nesting sites.

Only two populations are known to have greater than 1,000 nesting turtles, the Services said, for a total of 6,500 nesting females.

Citing research, the Services said historical baseline nesting information is generally not widely available in the region, but exploitation and trade of green turtles are well known.

The Services said in-water green turtle density in the Marianas is "low and mostly restricted to juveniles," noting that insufficient information suggests "unknown trends" in the Mari-

anas and other areas.

Pointing to coastal development in the region, the Services wrote that construction in CNMI islands is "occurring at a rapid rate...and is resulting in loss or degradation" of green turtle nesting habitats.

"Also in the CNMI, the majority of the nesting beaches on Tinian are military leased land, where the potential for construction impact exists. Increased public use of nesting beaches is a threat to" sea turtles in the CNMI, they said, citing impacts from commercial activities as well.

The Services noted degradation of sea grass habitats by ho-

tels, golf courses, and general tourist areas on Saipan.

They pointed to the "ongoing harvest of nesting adults" that has been documented in the CNMI and other islands in the region.

According to the DLNR turtle program, a total of 47 green turtles have nested on Saipan monitored beaches since 2006. Of these, 36 percent were permanently removed from the nesting population by directed take or illegal hunting.

The Services wrote of the "increasing threat" of erosion in CNMI's beaches and suggested that incidental bycatch

can occur from the "numerous subsistence and small-scale" commercial fishing on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The Services called existing regulatory mechanisms in the region "insufficient" or not implemented effectively.

"For the above reasons, we propose to list the Central West Pacific DPS as endangered. Based on its low nesting abundance and exposure to increasing threats, we find that this DPS is presently in danger of extinction throughout its range," the Services wrote.

A 90-day comment period on these proposed changes have been opened since Monday.

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Incest charge against Rota teenager is dismissed

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has dismissed the incest charge filed against a male teenager accused of having sex with a then-17-year-old girl on Rota.

Camacho determined that William Atalig Jr. is not an uncle of the girl under the common English definition of “uncle.”

Thus, the judge said, Atalig and the alleged victim are not sufficiently related for the alleged sexual encounter between them to qualify as incest.

Camacho said if one were to use a Chamorro definition for who would qualify as an “uncle,” the pool of potential “uncles” would be far larger than

the English language definition.

In an incest case, the judge said, such a large pool of potential “uncles” could create confusion as to which relationships would actually qualify as incest.

In the footnote of his ruling, Camacho said the Commonwealth Legislature has not applied Chamorro and Carolinian customs to incest.

Camacho was hesitant to extend the scope of the Commonwealth Code pertaining to incest to include a Chamorro definition of the word “uncle,” as this approach would leave open a wide range of questions as to when cultural terms should be applied rather than

English terms.

By expanding the term “uncle” to include cultural definitions, Camacho said he would be allowing vastly inconsistent and varied results in incest cases.

In a jurisdiction as diverse as the CNMI, using cultural definitions of “uncle” would produce inconsistent results depending on the cultural background of the individuals involved, Camacho said.

Under the Commonwealth Code, incest occurs when a person aged 18 or older engages in sexual penetration of a person “who is related either legitimately or illegitimately” to

them in one of three ways.

One way is an ancestor or descendant of the whole or half-blood; the second is a brother or sister of the whole or half-blood; and finally an uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece by blood.

Camacho said the key issue in this case is whether Atalig is related to the alleged victim as an uncle by blood.

Camacho said the Commonwealth Code does not define either “uncle” or “niece” for the purpose of determining the applicability of an incest charge.

Therefore, he said, the court turns to the “common and approved usage of the English language.”

Atalig, through assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, argued that an English dictionary definition of “uncle” should apply in this case.

The government, through assistant attorney general Shan-

non Foley, urged the court to apply traditional Chamorro kinship definitions, rather than English language terms.

Camacho said he is not persuaded by the Commonwealth’s arguments. He said the Commonwealth Criminal Code requires application of the common English language meaning of “uncle.”

According to the parties, the alleged victim is related to Atalig by blood. *Saipan Tribune* opted not to disclose the specific relationship to protect the identity of the alleged victim.

Although the girl was 17 at the time, Atalig was not charged with sexual abuse of a minor because he and the girl are only a year apart in age.

The government charged Atalig with sexual assault in the first degree, sexual assault in the second degree, incest, assault and battery, and dis-

turbing the peace.

At the preliminary hearing last Dec. 24, the court found no probable cause to charge Atalig with sexual assault and disturbing the peace charges. The government chose not to pursue the assault and battery charge.

With regard to the sexual assault charges, the court questioned whether there was actually a lack of consent in the alleged encounter.

The issue presented in the motion was whether this particular incident would qualify as incest within the meaning of the law.

The government asked the court to reconsider the court’s ruling as to the finding of no probable cause for sexual assault in the first and second degrees. Atalig opposed the motion. The court has yet to rule on the motion for reconsideration. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

MICHAELA A. WHITE, ESQ, F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAELA A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE
SERVICES GROUP, INC.,

CIVIL ACTION
No. 09-0338

Plaintiff,

-v-

RAMON P. AGULTO
and DALIA R. AGULTO,

Defendants.

EIGHTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 16, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 001 G 32 situated in Kagman, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 02, the original of which was recorded March 20, 1986, as Document No. 86-0513, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, and also recorded on February 16, 1989, as Document No. 89-511, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by this reference.
Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 10, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.
Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.
Dated, this 18th day of February, 2015:
/s/ MICHAELA A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAELA A. WHITE, ESQ, F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAELA A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE
SERVICES GROUP, INC.,

CIVIL ACTION
No. 09-0458

Plaintiff,

-v-

DONALD C. CAMACHO

Defendant.

FIFTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 4, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of defendant in and to the following property: Lot 0011 C 60 (formerly part of Lot 001 C 56, which was part of Lot 001 C 26, which was part of original Lot 001 C 05, T.D. 697), situated in San Roque Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 12, the original of which was recorded 27 August 1999 as Document No. 99-2037 at the Commonwealth recorder's Office, Saipan.
Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 3, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Office of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.
Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.
DATED, this 18th day of February, 2015:
/s/ MICHAELA A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAELA A. WHITE, ESQ, F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAELA A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE
SERVICES GROUP, INC.,

CIVIL ACTION
No. 11-0131

Plaintiff,

-v-

LUCIA BORJA PALACIOS,

Defendant.

THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 10, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 218-2-5, situated in As Teo, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, more particularly bounded and described as follows:
Beginning at a corner which is designated as Corner No. 1, having plane rectangular coordinates of 53,203.65 meters north and 66,755.91 meters east of the Mariana Islands district coordinate system of 1956.
Thence N 13° 35' 00" E, 13.18 meters to Corner 3;
Thence S 80° 13' 00" E, 65.95 meters to Corner 4;
Thence S 09° 47' 00" E, 28.85 meters to Corner 5;
Thence N 80° 13' 00" W, 66.53 meters to Corner 1; the point of beginning.
Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 10, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.
Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.
DATED, this 18th day of February, 2015:
/s/ MICHAELA A. WHITE, Auctioneer

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney Margery Bronster has notified the federal court that Betty Johnson’s original counsel, Bruce Jorgensen, has yet to pay some class members who loaned him money.

Bronster told U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood on Friday that some class members in Johnson’s lawsuit had loaned Jorgensen money so he could pay some of the costs when he first started the lawsuit.

In an interview, Bronster said Jorgensen was supposed to pay the class members when he received his settlement money.

Bronster: Jorgensen has yet to pay some class members of money he owes them

Bronster said the CNMI government informed them on Friday that Jorgensen has already been paid.


Bronster said the settlement agreement says that out of the first payment, Jorgensen was supposed to reimburse these people.

“Hopefully it was just an oversight but we would like to make sure that he pays back all of the class members who loaned him money,” Bronster said.

The CNMI government agreed to settle Jorgensen’s fees and costs in the amount of \$800,000 in connection with his representation as counsel for Johnson. The court approved the deal.

According to the settlement deal, the CNMI government shall deliver to Jorgensen’s counsel by wire transfer the sum of \$250,000 upon the court’s approval of the deal, wire transfer another \$250,000 on or before April 4, 2014, and \$300,000 on or before Feb. 15, 2015.

Upon receipt of the first installment payment, Jorgensen is authorized to pay attorney Jared Washkowitz \$4,250 for his services to the class. He is also authorized to reimburse the donation by class members to him such as \$2,100 to Johnson; \$600 to Teresa N. Tripp; and the amount of donation by any of the 14 class members who made a donation to David Price “who now wishes to be reimbursed.”




DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan

Saipan MP 96950

TEL. NO. 664-8300 | FAX NO. 664-8315



NOTICE OF APPLICATION

March 25, 2015

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Imperial Pacific International	02/05/2015 SMS-2015-X-006	Archaeological Recovery	Garapan	Major Siting	Approved (03/18/2015)*
2. Sakura Marine Sports	06/16/2015 SLR-2015-X-016	Jet Ski Operation	South of Fiesta Resort	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (03/23/2015)*

Require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.


RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS customers that current billing of accounts are due on or before **Wednesday, March 25**. Payments not received by close of business on **March 25** will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00PM on that day.

To prevent temporary suspension, customers are hereby advised to kindly pay their bills on or before **Wednesday, March 25**. Disputed billings must be brought to IT&E's attention in person or in writing by **Wednesday, March 25**. Customers must pay any current amount due, to avoid disconnection.

If you have questions regarding billing or services please call Customer Service at 682-4ITE (4483) or visit our Customer Service or Business Sales Center – Middle Road, Chalan Laolao.



To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:

SHELL Service Stations – up to 4:00pm
Chalan Laolao – up to 5:00pm
Tinian/Rota Office – up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm
PAY BY PHONE - 682-4ITE (4483)

Cruz defends bill to exempt officials from window tint ban

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A proposal to exempt elected officials from the ban on car window tinting is about security and safety and nothing more, according to Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian).

Cruz introduced the bill, which was subsequently passed by the Senate in a session on Rota last Friday.

"This bill is for the security and safety of elected officials," Cruz said, adding that the proposed bill will serve no other purpose.

Cruz said he feels that this proposed measure is "very urgent, very important," adding that his own personal experience during the 17th Legislature was one of the reasons he filed the bill.

"My car was shot [at] twice during the 17th Legislature in

2011, so I feel this is very urgent, very important," he said. "Unlike in other countries, we do not have security here."

The senator said it is the prerogative of other lawmakers to have a different view of the proposed law, but there is "no need to make this an issue."

He stressed that the proposed bill is "not meant for other purposes, and not meant to be abused."

Senate Bill 19-28 seeks to exempt vehicles used by elected officials from window tinting restrictions and government license plate re-

quirements.

According to the proposed bill, "this will ensure that elected officials cannot be easily attacked while traveling on the road or in a parked vehicle."

Other lawmakers, however, said that this is not necessary and not urgent.

\$3K McFun Run proceeds presented to Rotary

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

McDonald's Saipan donated \$3,000 to the Saipan Rotary Club to support its ongoing projects during the club's weekly meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

McDonald's Saipan owner Marcia Ayuyu and McDonald's Saipan marketing manager Ana Olaes presented the cash donation to Rotary Club president Richard Cody and president-elect Curtis Dancoe.

Ayuyu, who is also a Rotary Club director, said the donation represents proceeds from the McFun Run held last Feb. 21. The run was organized in partnership with the Rotary.

Although expenses for the running event exceeded their budget, Olaes said McDonald's Saipan president Joe Ayuyu decided to give the full \$3,000 to the Rotary.

Marcia Ayuyu said McDon-

ald's Saipan is more than happy to support projects of the local Rotary Club.

"We're excited with the partnership and the Ayuyu family is looking forward to continuing the partnership and sponsor the McFun Run event every year," Olaes said.

Dancoe said the Rotary Club is happy to receive the donation and thanked Ayuyu and Olaes for the donation.

Ayuyu said they are willing to repeat the McFun Run next year and will plan ahead of time.

The McFun Run drew more than a 100 participants, but Ayuyu said they plan to increase that number and make it even more successful next year.

She also thanked the sponsors of the McFun Run: Joeten Enterprises, Herman's Modern Bakery, National Office Supply, D&Q, DFS T Galleria, Twins Supermarket, Coca Cola, and Yaong Corp.



McDonald's Saipan donates \$3,000 to the Saipan Rotary Club yesterday afternoon. From left to right: Saipan Rotary Club president Richard Cody, McDonald's Saipan marketing manager Ana Olaes, McDonald's Saipan owner/operator Marcia Ayuyu, and Saipan Rotary Club president-elect Curtis Dancoe.

JAYSON CAMACHO



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NMHC RFP 2015-003

(This ad is paid for by NMHC general funds)

Consulting Services for the NMHC's Garapan Annex Properties

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) are soliciting Request for Proposals from Qualified Consulting Service Firms to obtain a high quality report on the preliminary redevelopment of the existing Annex II subdivision, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal packets will be available on or after Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI Holidays.

Mandatory Pre-proposal conference is scheduled on April 15, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. (local time) at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or via fax to (670) 234-9021, no later than April 17, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

All proposal submissions must be sealed, shall be marked "Confidential" and labeled "NMHC RFP 2015-003" and submit one (1) original and three (3) copies, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, April 24, 2015 (Friday), at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, P.O. Box 10008, Saipan, MP 96950. Selection of a proposer shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director
Procurement and Supply

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Office of the Governor, CIP Office & Maeda Pacific Corporation

Announce the start of the Garapan Water Quality Restoration project on 23 March 2015. All residents and businesses along Alaihai, Puti Tainobu, Filooris, Bukiku & Kalachucha Avenues are hereby advised that construction of a new flood control system is in progress.

Construction will cause temporary closure of the above mentioned avenues from time to time. All efforts will be taken to minimize inconvenience to the public.

Upon completion this summer, residents and businesses along these avenues will enjoy a new drainage system, sidewalks, paved driveways and brand new pavement.

The Governor & Maeda Pacific Corporation ask you to please "Pardon our Progress" as we work to improve the CNMI.

Eruptions, quakes, cyclones: Vanuatu man survives them all

EFATE, Vanuatu (AP)—Volcanic eruptions, landslides, earthquakes and cyclones: 76-year-old Lik Simelum from Vanuatu has survived them all.

He lives in a country that's ranked by the United Nations University as the world's most at-risk for natural disasters. But his story is remarkable even in an archipelago that has grown familiar with nature's fury. It is also filled with sadness: his father and youngest brother were both killed by a landslide.

Simelum survived yet another disaster this month when Cyclone Pam ripped through the South Pacific archipelago, destroying thousands of homes and killing at least 17 people. Simelum's outdoor kitchen was

blasted to pieces and he had to sweep the water from his home from flooding, but he doesn't seem too worried about all that.

Simelum's story begins when he was just 11, living on the island of Ambryn, located in central Vanuatu. In December 1950, violent tremors began on the Benbow volcano, which then turned into a major series of eruptions that lasted for almost a year.

"I was frightened," he said. "Sometimes during the day there would be a lot of ash going up and blocking the sun."

He said on those days his family would eat lunch with a lamp because it was so dark.

"There was ash on all the trees and the bushes," he said.

"Sometimes you could only see the whites of people's eyes, they were black with ash all over."

The ash affected everything, he said, killing crops and contaminating the family's well water. So the joint French and British government evacuated much of Ambryn, relocating his family to Epi Island.

He said the family was in Epi only a matter of weeks when a ferocious cyclone struck, just before Christmas 1951. News reports at the time indicate the winds sunk four ships and killed an unknown number of people.

Simelum said the rains were so heavy they triggered landslides. One roared through his home in the middle of the night, killing his father and his brother.

"It carried them away," he said.

His mother survived by clinging to the rafters of their home, he said, although she broke her back. Simelum had been sleeping elsewhere that night, after his family had moved him for his own safety. He said his two sisters, who live near him now, were living on other islands at the time.

He said his mother was taken to a hospital in Port Vila and the two of them were relocated from Epi for a second time, to a village on the main island of Efate, in the house where he still lives today. He said he worked first as a teacher, and later as a district education officer. His mother, he said, died peacefully from conditions re-

lated to her age.

In 1987, Cyclone Uma struck. It lifted the verandah from the home and flung it about 25 meters (82 feet), he said. It also caused flooding and filled the home with mud.

Then in October 2009, a powerful magnitude-7.7 earthquake hit Vanuatu. Simelum said he ran outside during the shaking.

"It was strong," he said.

His low-lying village soon got the news: it was about to be wiped out by a tsunami triggered

by the quake. So he and the others left, leaving everything behind, and ran up a nearby hill. But the tsunami never eventuated and they were able to return.

Life was relatively peaceful for a few years until Cyclone Pam hit. Simelum said he's too old to repair his kitchen now, and will leave that work to his children. But he said he expects to see more weather extremes.

"Climate change will cause more disasters to Vanuatu," he said.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OVR closed today for PD

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation will be closed today, March 25, for staff professional development activities. For urgent matters on these days, call 287-6538/6548. For more information, contact OVR at 322-6537/8; TTY: 322-6449; Fax: 322-6536; email: nmidir@ovrgov.net; or website: www.ovrgov.net. **(OVR)**

LITS offers couples encounter event on Sunday

Life in the Son Saipan is offering a couples encounter event this Sunday, March 29, from 3pm to 9pm at the Kanoa Resort Seaside Hall. Mark and Terry Benavente will be leading the couples encounter. The two are directors of the Elijah House Guam as well as senior pastors of LITS Guam. Participation costs \$20 per person. To RSVP, call 285-4949, email lifeinthesonsaipan@gmail.com, or visit 3Strands Christian Outlet in Gualo Rai (235-4438). The store is open from Monday to Saturday, 10am-7pm. RSVP on or before Thursday, March 26, as seats are limited. No childcare is provided during the event. **(PR)**

PH consulate to host mobile outreach on Saipan

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam will host a mobile consular outreach on Saipan on March 25-27, 2015, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. To avoid delays in the processing of applications, applicants are advised not to fold copies of the original scanned requirements that were sent to us in advance. All ePassport applications require personal appearance; wear proper attire with collar. Applicants are advised to be at the venue on the time and date indicated in the schedule. Time slot of the "no show" applicants will be cancelled. **(PCG)**

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

■ March 25, from 4pm to 8:30pm

■ March 26, from 6:50-7:50am and 1-8:30pm

■ March 27, from 10:30am to 8:30pm

The military will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

■ March 25-27, from 12:01am to 11:59pm

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the areas during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. **(PR)**

MHS junior classes to take part in seminar

All junior classes of Marianas High School will be participating in the upcoming Start Smart Seminar sponsored by Northern Marianas College on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, from 8:30am to 2:45pm, at the Saipan World Resort. This event will teach students about the process of applying for college, the benefits of getting a degree, as well scholarship and financial aid opportunities. Transportation and lunch will be provided on this day. **(MHS)**

MHS juniors to take NMC placement tests

All junior students of Marianas High School will be taking the English and Math Placement Test for Northern Marianas College. This is to give students the opportunity to get a firsthand experience of the testing prior to admission for college. Testing will be on March 25, 26, 27, April 1, and April 9. Total testing time will be approximately four hours. Testing will begin at 9am. Testing will be administered at both the MHS and NMC campuses. Transportation and lunch will be provided for those who will be taking the test at NMC. **(MHS)**



In this Saturday, March 21, 2015, photo, Lik Simelum poses in front of his kitchen, which was destroyed by Cyclone Pam this month on the island of Efate, Vanuatu.

SPC stands by Pacific communities to address TB challenge

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—World Tuberculosis Day reminds us all of the important work under way to eradicate this highly infectious and sometimes fatal disease, but also that more needs to be done to save lives across the Pacific and globally.

"We've achieved significant progress in the detection and treatment of tuberculosis cases in the Pacific region in recent years, but a renewed effort is essential to 'reach, treat and cure everyone,'" according to a tuberculosis epidemiologist at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Jojo Merilles.

While an average of 26,000 TB cases have been reported in Pacific Island countries and territories each year over the past three years, including new and relapsed cases, more are now being detected and put under treatment than was the case 10 years ago.

Records kept by the World Health Organization show that in 2003, a total of 15,570 cases were reported and treated in the Pacific region, although this may not have reflected the full extent of the disease.

Today there's a mixed picture of notification rates for TB across the region.

"We're working with a range of technical and funding partners to support our Pacific member countries and territories in their efforts to accelerate the diagnosis and treatment of people with TB infection," Merilles said.

For example, with funding support from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, a high technology GeneXpert automated diagnostic test has recently been introduced in Kiribati, which has the highest registration rates of TB in the region (386 TB cases per 100,000 people were registered

in Kiribati in 2013).

The Manager of Kiribati's National TB Program, Dr. Alfred Tonganibeia, said: "Since Feb. 5, 2015, the National Tuberculosis Program in Kiribati has been able to perform TB diagnosis at a cheaper cost and send laboratory feedback to clinicians within two hours."

Despite progress, many TB cases remain unidentified and untreated in countries where the burden of the disease is very high (Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, and Tuvalu).

At the regional level, a mid-term TB Strategic Plan 2015-2019 for Pacific island countries and territories has been developed to guide TB control work.

The strategy includes ambitious goals, which are achievable if those infected with TB are identified and treated quickly.

"SPC will continue to stand by its Pacific members and

partners to move towards the overall goal of ending the global TB epidemic by 2035," Merilles said.

SPC supports Pacific national TB programs, in close collaboration with WHO, the International Union Against TB and Lung Disease, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, DFAT, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and several reference laboratories, the Pasteur Institute in New Caledonia, the Louis Malardé Institute in French Polynesia, the Queensland Mycobacterium Reference Laboratory, Lab Plus in Auckland, Diagnostic Laboratory Services in Honolulu, and the South Australian Laboratory.

World Tuberculosis Day is marked each year on March 24. This year's global theme is "Reach the 3 Million: Reach, Treat, Cure Everyone." **(SPC)**

CNMI Hospitality Expo this Friday; open to the public

The CNMI will host its first Hospitality Expo this Friday, March 27, from 1pm to 6pm at the Saipan World Resort. This event is free and open to the public.

Latte Training Academy and Island Training Solutions, the training partner for the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute, will be hosting this event. This "trade show" or Expo has over 30 exhibitors who will be showing off their properties, services, and amenities for

the public to see. There will also be entertainment from Dandan Elementary School's My Wave Club and Larry Lee's ukulele group. The public is urged to come down and browse the booths and see what the CNMI's No. 1 industry has to offer.

The ribbon cutting to open the Expo will be held promptly at 1pm and floor will be open to the public.

"This idea stems from conversations with residents through-

out Saipan who still do not understand the depth of opportunities the hospitality business offers our residents. It not only offers great career opportunities but the taxes and fees from tourism and hospitality help fund our government and the services it provides to our residents," said Jim Arenovski of Island Training Solutions. "All businesses in the CNMI whether they are di-



rectly or far removed, benefit from the tourism dollars."

"There is no charge to visit the expo and each visitor will get a raffle entry for great prizes from the resorts and supporting business" Arenovski added.

The goal of the expo is to showcase all the amenities, banquet facilities, restaurants, bars, spas, memberships, products,

etc. that are offered at Commonwealth hotels, resorts, and supporting businesses.

"We hope everyone can make some time to come down to the Expo and get a chance to visit each booth to see what is new and upcoming in the industry," Arenovski said.

The Latte Training Academy with Island Training Solutions provides globally recognized hospitality certification training from the American Hotel

and Lodging Educational Institute and has graduated over 70 participants with another 90 people currently enrolled in four separate hospitality classes. For more information on the upcoming training classes contact lattetrainingacademy@outlook.com or go to their website at www.lattetrainingacademy.com

For more information on the Hospitality Expo contact Arenovski at deltamgt@pticom.com or call 287-7037. (PTA)

Brilliant Star students donate to Karidat food bank



Around Thanksgiving last year, the Brilliant Star School students organized a food drive for Karidat.

"Thanksgiving traditionally marks a season of giving and it is in that spirit that they wanted to take the opportunity to show compassion for others and make giving and kindness part of who they are, not just a thing they do," said Brilliant Star School principal Richard Sikkel.

The students chose to do chores around the house and neighborhoods for a nominal compensation and collected a total of \$90. The school matched the funds the students collected and bought \$180 worth of food items to be donated to the food bank of Karidat.

"Last Wednesday we took some of our students to drop of

the food items to Karidat," said Sikkel. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Diane Masga Sablan! May the good Lord bless you on your special day. Enjoy another year of blessing and many more to come. We love you. Greetings come from Randall, Ryan, Jodian, Frankie, Gus, Asinta Pangelinan, friends, and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



SHRM meeting to focus on workforce training programs

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter is pleased to announce its March general membership meeting on the topic of "Workforce Alternatives in the CNMI," which will be presented by a trio of speakers: Jim T. Arenovski of Island Training Solutions; Josephine Mesta of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute; and Dr. Julie-Ulloa-Heath of G4S. This lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Charley's Cabaret on Thursday, March 26, 2015, from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

This presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers and employees to learn

more about the different locations available in the CNMI to find trained and qualified workers for a wide range of needed positions, from hospitality to skilled trades. Each speaker will discuss their programs for training U.S. workers and how these programs will affect the impending labor shortage in the CNMI. Each will also provide the opportunity for questions about their programs.

The presentation includes lunch and the cost is \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Micah Parico-Acuvera by phone at 234-1795

or by e-mail at corppoffice@triplejsaipan.com or by e-mail to Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com.

The Society for Human Resource Management is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The Society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI Chapter, you can visit their website at <http://nmi-chapter.shrm.org>. (SHRM)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-15-005, Rev.1

W-4, W-5 AND W-6 SEWER LIFT STATION ELIMINATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of W-4, W-5 and W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project is composed of a Base Bid Items and 3 Additive Bid Items. The base bid consists of construction of a new lift station to replace the existing W-5 lift station; installation of new gravity mains from existing W-4 lift station to the new W-5 lift station, installation of force main from the new W-5 lift station to the nearby gravity sewer main, thereby eliminating existing sewer lift stations; installation of Owner-Furnished Contractor-Installed (OFICI) products; construction of a new generator building and appurtenances; demolition of the W-4 generator building and appurtenances; demolition and restoration existing minor structures and restoration of existing asphalt concrete road. Additive Bid No. 1 consists of archaeological and unexploded ordnance standby and monitoring services. Additive Bid No. 2 consists of a bar screen and appurtenances for the new W-5 lift station. Additive Bid Item No. 3 consists of the installation of new gravity sewer main and manholes from existing W-6 lift station to W-5 such that W-6 can be eliminated; demolition of the W-6 electrical building, new laterals, and the restoration of existing asphalt concrete road. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 350 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **March 27, 2015 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-005, Rev.1, W-4, W-5 and W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 21, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of **fifteen percent (15%)** of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of **one hundred percent (100%)** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of **one hundred percent (100%)** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 2, 2015** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, Chief Engineer via email at john.riegel@cucgov.org and Nicolette Villagomez, Junior Engineer, Water & Wastewater via email nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLON
Purchasing Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

US needs to increase R&D spending or cede world economic leadership

The United States is losing its edge. It is surrendering the research and development advantage that has fueled its economy for six decades.

China now performs more R&D than the United States, and South Korea and Germany have greater annual growth in R&D expenditures.

For all of Silicon Valley's wealth and ability to innovate, it can't maintain its technological edge unless the United States renews its once-strong commitment to funding basic scientific research.

Sen. Dick Durbin has the solution, but it faces rough sailing in Congress.

The Illinois Democrat on Monday outlined the American Innovation Act to increase funding for basic scientific research by 5 percent—\$100 billion—over the next 10 years for five agencies: the National Science Foundation; the Department of Defense, Science and Technology Departments; the NASA Science Directorate; the National Institute of Standards and Technology Scientific and Technical Research; and the Department of Energy Office of Science.

Support for research should be a non-partisan goal, but Durbin's legislation would require ending the sequestration spending caps agreed to by Congress during the 2008 economic crisis. The GOP sees the caps as crucial to shrinking government spending and the deficit. But the deficit has shrunk precipitously since 2008, and R&D has a proven return for the economy.

Unlike private companies' R&D results, the outcomes of publicly sponsored basic research are broadly available to entrepreneurs and growing companies. The advantage is exponentially greater.

The National Science Foundation, with a budget of \$7 billion today, is the main source of federal support for research in mathematics and computer science. It receives about 40,000 grant applications a year but can only fund a quarter of them. The low funding compared to past allocations is reducing the chances of scientific breakthroughs, but there's a more alarming result: It is discouraging brilliant young people from choosing careers in research, and if that continues, it will cripple our capacity to ever recover an edge.

China is pumping money into its universities and research programs. Since 2000, it has tripled its number of researchers, and it produces more students with science and engineering degrees than the United States. It is rapidly racking up patents.

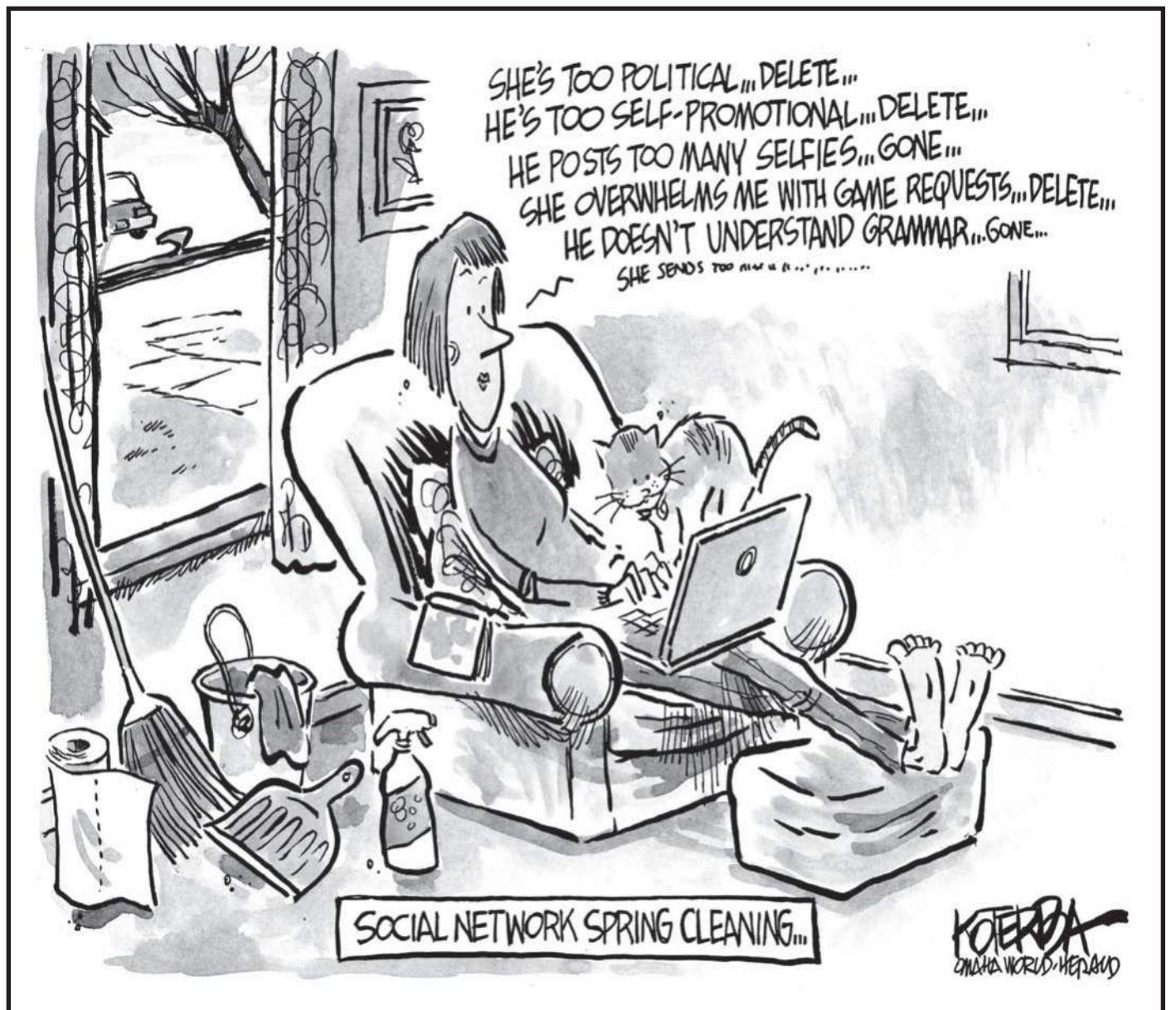
While the \$100 billion Durbin proposes would be significant, it represents a minuscule portion of the nation's overall budget. President Barack Obama understands all this.

"We know that the nation that goes all-in on innovation today will own the global economy tomorrow," he said last year.

"This is an edge America cannot surrender. Federally funded research helped lead to the ideas behind Google and smartphones."

China increased its research spending by 20 percent between 2001 and 2011. The United States is lagging in a race it can't afford to lose.

(c)2015 San Jose Mercury News (San Jose, Calif.)



7 obstacles Ted Cruz must overcome

In his first year as a senator, he cast one of three votes against longtime Sen. John Kerry as secretary of state, then incited like-thinking conservative Republicans in the House to shut down the federal government for 16 days in a futile bid to stop President Barack Obama's landmark health care act.

Now, just 44, he's beaten the rest of the large GOP field into the media spotlight as the first formal entrant in the party's 2016 presidential race. But a number of factors make it unlikely he'll finish first when Republicans pick their nominee.

By pledging to lead a grassroots army of "millions of courageous conservatives rising up to reignite the promise of America" and choosing the late Jerry Falwell's Liberty University as his kickoff site, Sen. Ted Cruz, of Texas, underscored his intention of relying heavily on the religious conservatives who constitute a majority of Republican voters in both the leadoff Iowa caucuses and the subsequent South Carolina primary.

But the Texas senator faces a battle for those votes, and history indicates that even success there does not guarantee victory when the primary trail hits larger, more diverse states. Here are some of the handicaps the freshman Texas senator must overcome to win the Republican nomination:

1 Too far right? Though his views don't differ notably from most rivals, he sought in his announcement speech to portray himself as the purest conservative in the field, promising to repeal Obamacare, abolish the IRS, pass a flat tax and enable college graduates to choose from "four, five, six job offers." While appealing to many Republicans, it's a dubious path for a general election where even GOP analysts say the party must broaden its appeal.

2 Strong competition. In Iowa alone, Cruz has strong competition for support from the religious conservatives who dominated recent caucuses. Rivals could include Gov. Scott Walker from neighboring Wisconsin, who scored strongly at a recent conservative forum; Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, whose father's past campaigns give him a solid Iowa base; former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who won the 2008 caucuses; former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, who won the 2012 caucuses; and several others. Recent polls showed Walker as the early favorite, with Cruz far behind.

3 Experience. For six years, the GOP has assailed Obama's lack of electoral experience. But Cruz, who won his first election in 2012, has less. Rivals can tout greater achievements. Besides, senators have generally fared poorly in Republican contests; the last three to be nominated, Barry Goldwater in 1964, Bob Dole

By **CARL P. LEUBSDORF**

The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. Readers may write to him via email at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.



in 1996 and John McCain in 2008, lost decisively.

4 Burned bridges. Running for president involves building coalitions, something Cruz has shown little interest in doing. His challenges to the congressional GOP leadership have aroused substantial antagonism, and he made clear Monday that his projected path to victory involves mobilizing increased conservative turnout, not expanding the GOP base.

5 Visage. Cruz sometimes comes across as angry, having defined himself so far by his fervent opposition to Obamacare and his role in shutting the government. While Republicans generally share his views, voters generally like positive candidates who display optimism about the future. Cruz sought to do that Monday to a very friendly audience, though the conservative nirvana he portrayed seemed optimistic even by political standards.

6 Texas base. He faces spirited competition for both Texas money and support. And it's not necessarily an electoral positive to come from so solidly a Republican state. The last two successful Texas candidates, the two George Bushes, benefited from their New England roots. Many Republicans may question his appeal in the crucial electoral battlegrounds of the Industrial Belt, where the key to GOP success is attracting independents. After losing four of the last six elections, GOP voters may want a candidate they feel can win.

7 History. In the past half-century, the only time Republicans nominated their most conservative candidate was Goldwater in 1964, and he carried six states. The GOP has gotten far more conservative since then, as have its leaders, but the country has become more diverse.

Cruz is smart and self-confident, delivering Monday's remarks with almost evangelical fervor, using neither podium nor script. A champion college debater, he could prove more adept than less-articulate rivals when televised campaign debates begin. Still, the odds on the quest he began Monday are long.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Candle in the wind

In 1978, there was dawning optimism of economic prosperity under a constitutional government. It was the beginning of self-rule on the islands.

Three and-a-half decades later, that bright glow of hope has been snuffed like a candle in the wind. Our government is suffering from persistent bouts with fiscal crisis. The continuing abject misery deepens by the day, drowning the livelihoods of the village folks. The guys and gals on the hill converged in a meeting dubbed “collaboration.” Asked a member of the House, “Collaboration on what?”

The more we probe and dissect our handling of self-rule of recent past, the more it’s clear that we sleepwalked it ignoring citizenship responsibility to actively guide it forward.

Sadly, we can’t blame the deepening fiscal and economic mess on Uncle Sam. We screwed it up ourselves royally too. Even the scapegoats have all gone home!

We partied during the boom years of the ’80s. Then it crashed and flushed out of the floodgates of a highly fragile island economy! Major investments took an exodus. Gone was the fiscal scaffold! We’re caught disoriented, sighing desperately for any answer.

Bankruptcy is now the single narrative throughout the entire landscape. We never saved for that rainy day. The stormy fiscal rainy day is here! We were loose or hardly responsible and accountable in our disposition of scarce fiscal resources. Ready to pay the price of negligence?

Came the federal takeover of immigration. How would the CNMI navigate the requirement to replace CW workers with citizens by 2019? Wouldn’t the integrated casino resort need more than 500 permanent staff workers? It’s a tough cookie to crack given its geopolitical implications.

The issue of leadership comes into play. It’s a missing com-

ponent, though, in a woefully dizzying equation. It reminds me of the biblical passage where Moses was commanded to lead the Israelites out of Egypt where they were treated as slaves. In our case it’s economic slavery.

The days of using the self-concocted backstop of excuses and the impunity we once had pulling out scapegoats in moments of self-inflicted difficulties are all history. The last I checked there are only the indigenous people standing alone in the open field of familial economic hardship. Optimism has been snuffed like candle in the wind.

Fate of simple villagers

The court has cited the hospital for ignoring an order to pay its utility bills of about \$15 million. Understandably, the power generators can’t operate on seawater or persistent bureaucratic excuse. Marching out of court we told the judge, “Esta Lai” or someone goes to visit DOC.

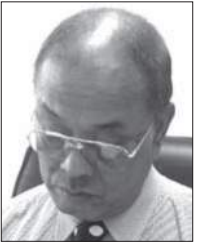
I get goose bumps when I review what’s owed the utility agency: CHC, \$15 million; NMI government, \$29 million; in addition to budgetary requirements, e.g., CHC, \$40 million; PSS, \$42 million; Settlement Fund for fiscal year 2016, \$29 million; and other agencies and vendors.

The simple folks aren’t necessarily attuned to the deepening fiscal crisis for theirs is found in Maslow’s hierarchy of needs. These are “basic human needs (motivators) that must be satisfied in a strict sequence starting with the lowest level. Physiological needs for survival (to stay alive and reproduce) and security (to feel safe) are the most fundamental and most pressing needs. They are followed by social needs (for love and belonging) and self-esteem needs (to feel worthy, respected, and have status). The final and highest level needs is self-actualization needs (self-fulfillment and achievement). Its underlying theme is that human beings are

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



“wanting” beings: as they satisfy one need the next emerges on its own and demands satisfaction and so on until the need for self-actualization that, by its very nature, cannot be fully satisfied and thus does not generate more needs.

It’s an interesting reaction where they’d lend an ear momentarily then quickly return to working on actual survival. One related that he challenges people on the hill to deliver their promise of better days ahead. “As it is, the consistent and persistent slide of fiscal resources is a tale of what lies ahead which isn’t very promising.”

Can the deepening mess be salvaged? Definitely! Deficit spending becomes a tool of necessity to navigate the bad times in hopes of soft landing soon on real time economic growth. But this would require leadership and a set of genuine plans. There’s none!

The reality of the pension program is simple: The Fund’s unfunded liability is around \$779 million and needs some \$30 million to pay retirees in fiscal 2016 under the Settlement Fund. By 2019, if not earlier, it would go bankrupt or broke. Politicians of recent past have robbed the program of its fiscal integrity singing “Don’t worry, be happy...” Retirees aren’t singing but worried sick what happens when the checks stop coming. You’re talking of 9,000-plus simple villagers.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Tinian is next!

We still have a wall of skepticism standing in the way of progress and I want to take this opportunity to try and dispel some of the skepticism and concerns raised at the Senate hearings on Rota in hopes that the Tinian hearing will reveal more support for the moratorium and full legalization. I can’t impress upon people how important it is for us to take on the entire issue of full legalization and not just for medical use. Just think, we will still have to deal with recreational use anyway so why not deal with the entire challenge now, especially when a proponent for medical use only just wrote that “marijuana is the safest therapeutic substance known to man to alleviate pain and treat those suffering from serious medical conditions with little to no side effects.” Needless to say, most of society is already in agreement with this statement yet if marijuana is so good and safe for medical use, why is it so bad for recreational use? It defies logic and it should be obvious that something is wrong with this perspective as the effects on those who are not sick is the same as the effects on those who are sick. Certainly if marijuana is good for the sick then it is good for those who are not sick. I submit that it is only the fear of the unknown that is supporting the wall of skepticism against full legalization as people only need to be fully educated on this issue.

It seems those who only want medical marijuana being made legal associate it with pain but there are cognitive /emotional issues and illnesses like stress/hypertension and the daily events of being upset that can be helped and even alleviated with marijuana use. But try taking a drink under some of these stressful conditions and you can easily end up wanting to fight or even worse—that’s the true reality between alcohol and marijuana. A lot of the so-called recreational use of marijuana is actually “mentally therapeutic” not associated with physical pain. People needing marijuana for mental therapy will not be included mainly due to the difficult financial challenge of finding and paying for a psychologist that is not covered under most insurances. Marijuana use is about all people and not just those in physical pain as emotional pain can be just as challenging and just as deadly. There are a lot of people who might still be alive if they had just sat down and smoked a joint!

There were still some people showing concern for children

going crazy to smoke if it is legalized. This is a good example of why people of the CNMI need to be educated on this issue because there were no major reports by the school systems of mass changes in youth behavior and use of marijuana in Colorado or Washington State. There were only some isolated incidents that could be attributed solely to the ignorance of the child. People holding this fear need to let go and trust in our education system to help them in deterring the use of marijuana by our youth. FYI readers, we can’t maximize an aggressive fight against marijuana use by our youth until we legalize marijuana for all use. There is also the fact that if you really want to stop locking up our youth for a marijuana cigarette, we need to fully legalize it.

It was suggested that the marijuana issue be given to the people for a vote. If people are going to vote on something, it is best that the people see and understand what they are voting on first, which is why I proposed a moratorium. Obviously these people didn’t know about the moratorium I proposed as this approach would give the people an opportunity to see how full legalization would work out in the CNMI before voting—a simple scientific approach that would answer all the questions and reveal the true realities of their skepticism and concerns. So if you want to vote on the matter you should support the moratorium so you can see what you are voting on based on pure facts and not skepticism. Based on scientific research, human consumption of alcohol is the most toxic, followed by heroin, cocaine, tobacco, Ecstasy, meth or ice, with the least toxic dose being marijuana. This is scientific proof that we should be using more marijuana and less alcohol for recreational purposes! Are we really that oblivious and even stupid to ignore the science on marijuana use? I pray not! Give progress a chance before you say no. You owe it to our children and their future and our quality of life today.

For almost a decade the CNMI has been wondering how to turn our economy around and institute a higher quality of life in the CNMI. We literally need a miracle to totally turn things around as it will still be years before we feel the full effects of the casino(s), which the governor has even told us is still not the full solution. The full legalization of marijuana in the U.S. mainland has opened the door to a virtual economic miracle in revenues for governments, created thousands of good jobs, improved funding for education, improved medical services, and government subsidies that help to improve the quality of life for

all people. Do we try to cash in on this financial miracle or do we let unwarranted skepticism with no factual basis stop us? You would think that given the success in other states it wouldn’t be a question of *if* but *how*. However, as usual we are slow on island time and are still dealing with the *if* when the rest of America including Guam have skipped the *if* stage to the *how*.

Finally, no one has a right to dictate to any person which natural growing herb they can or cannot use in its natural state as you will be playing god! People need to look in the mirror before they start dictating to other people on what they can or cannot do for their personal use and satisfaction. Any herb can be used in its natural state, which was given to us all by our creator to use. No one has that right to take away anyone’s “natural right,” which is the foundation of our American philosophy of life and governing based on our natural rights theory in a state of nature by Thomas Hobbes and John Locke, who gave us the natural rights theory for governing. People actually have a right to use marijuana for any reason. Marijuana grows naturally and can never be eradicated and people will always want to use it for recreational purposes so do we continue to live in denial and perpetuate the problem or do we take control through full legalization? It is really that simple!






What I can’t understand is that we have those saying no to recreational use when our society should clearly be worried more about our youth and our adults drinking alcohol. Big signs saying “medical use only” is a ridiculous display of ignorance when alcohol is destroying people’s marriages and lives every day and even kills and is still killing while marijuana is already commonly known to be one of the safest therapeutic substance known to man! We must get rid of the unfounded skepticism and speculation and see first-hand during the moratorium period. So make sure you attend the public hearings and let it be known that you want to see what full legalization is like under the moratorium to eliminate any guessing or speculation. Voters should want to make well-educated informed decision about legalization based on their own observations and not something someone said while playing god. Support the scientific approach of a moratorium on full legalization so you can know for yourself.

Ambrose M Bennett

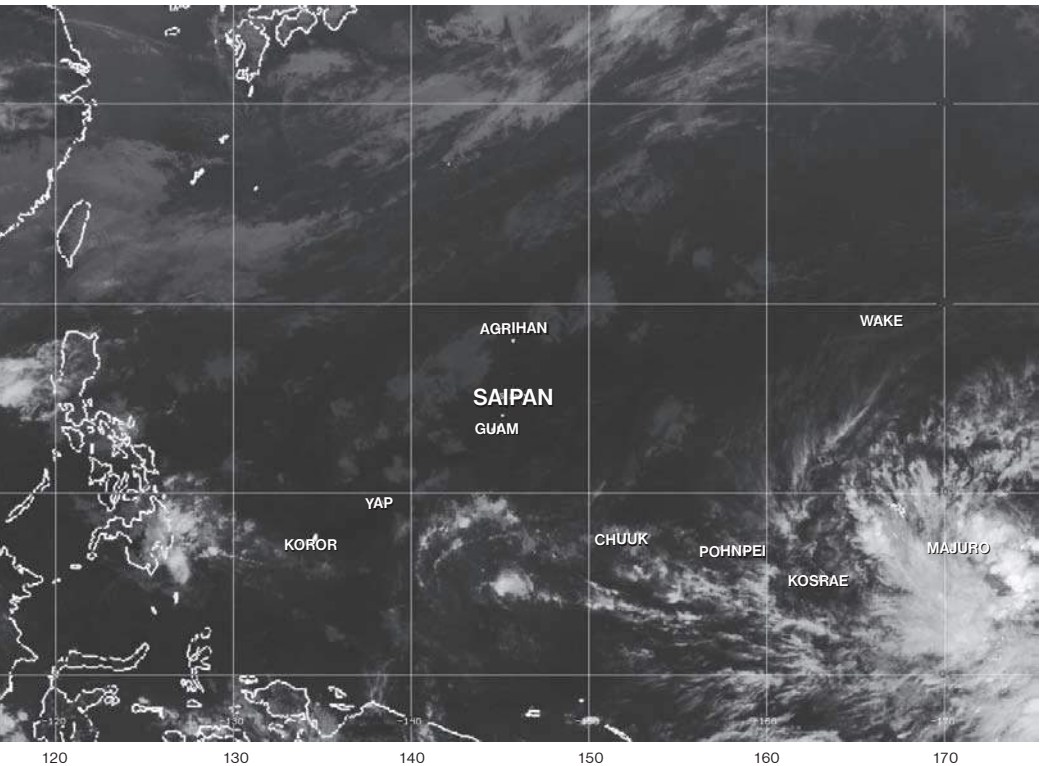
Kagman, Saipan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲85° ▼74°	▲86° ▼74°	▲86° ▼74°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak circulation is centered southwest of Chuuk near 4N147E. Widely-scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present across portions of Yap and Chuuk states, or between 4N and 9N from 141E to 155E. A tropical disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands, Tarawa and Butaritari east of a line from 10N165E to EQ68E. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers well west of Iwo To Island, or west of a line from 25N136E to 20N131E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼81
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Showers	▲73	▼60
Beijing	Sunny	▲69	▼43
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼65
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼68
London	Showers	▲52	▼35
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲78	▼57
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼49
Miami	Showers	▲85	▼71
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼32
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲50	▼37
Paris	Rain	▲43	▼39
Pusan	Sunny	▲58	▼40
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲66	▼56
Salem	Cloudy	▲60	▼47
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼52
Seoul	Sunny	▲58	▼42
Tokyo	Sunny	▲55	▼37
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲47	▼36



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
12:30 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:22 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
11:42 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
6:56 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:19 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:18 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	10:11 AM	11:16P M
Thursday	11:03 AM	
Friday	11:55 AM	12:10 AM
Saturday	12:46 PM	1:00 AM
Sunday	1:36 PM	1:47 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily	OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
				UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
				UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
				UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

CDC: 11M fewer uninsured since passage of Obama's law

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of uninsured U.S. residents fell by more than 11 million since President Barack Obama signed the health care overhaul five years ago, according to a pair of reports Tuesday from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Although that still would leave about 37 million people uninsured, it's the lowest level measured in more than 15 years.

The most dramatic change took place in comparing 2013 with the first nine months of 2014. As the health care law's major coverage expansion was taking effect, the number of uninsured people fell by 7.6 million over that time.

That's "much bigger than can possibly be explained by the economy," said Larry Levitt of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. "The vast majority has to be due to the Affordable Care Act."

Monday was the law's fifth anniversary, and supporters and detractors again clashed over its impact.

Obama says the law in many ways is "working even better than anticipated."

House Speaker John Boehner says it amounts to a "legacy of broken promises."

The health care law offers subsidized private coverage to people who don't have access to it on the job, as well as an expanded version of Medicaid geared to low-income adults, in

states accepting it.

The White House says 16 million people have gained health insurance, a considerably higher estimate than Tuesday's report from CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. The White House includes results from the law's second sign-up season, stretching into this year.

The CDC reports compared the first nine months of 2014 with annual statistics going back as far as 1997, from the National Health Interview Survey. Among the highlights:

- The number of uninsured dropped from 48.6 million in 2010 to 37.2 million for the period from Jan.-Sept. last year. That amounted to 11.4 million fewer uninsured since the signing of the health care law.

- In 2014, about 27 million people said they had been without coverage for more than a year.

- Some 6.8 million people were covered through the health care law's new insurance markets during July-Sept. of 2014.

- The most significant coverage gains last year came among adults ages 18-64. Nearly 40 million were uninsured in 2013. But that dropped to 32.6 million in the first nine months of 2014.

- States that moved forward with the law's Medicaid expansion saw a bigger decline in the share of their residents uninsured.

The main question hanging over the law now is a Supreme

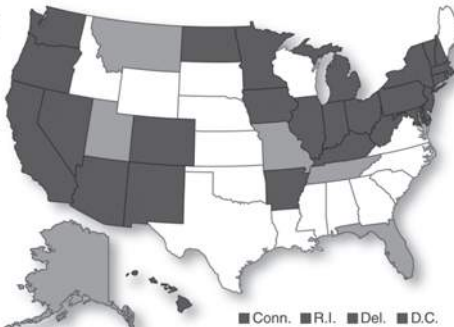
The Affordable Care Act at age 5

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was signed into law by President Barack Obama on March 23, 2010. Here's a look at the law's impact after 5 years.

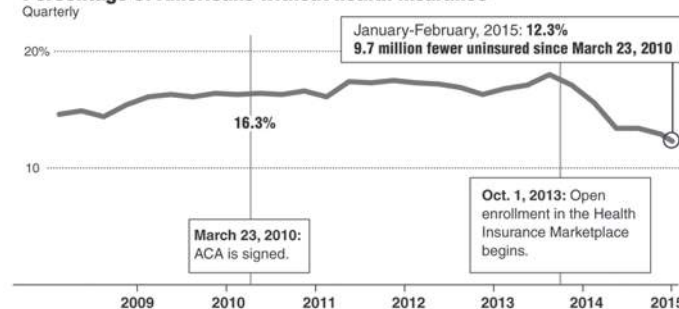
Medicaid expansion

A Supreme Court ruling lets states decide whether to expand eligibility for Medicaid.

■ Medicaid expansion under discussion
■ Have decided to expand Medicaid
■ Have not expanded Medicaid



Percentage of Americans without health insurance



Tax credits

The cost of marketplace health coverage can be offset by the premium tax credit, a monthly subsidy that is applied directly to the plan's premium.

Individuals who have a 2015 federal marketplace plan	8,838,291
Percent of plans with premium tax credit	87%
Average monthly premium before tax credit	\$364
Average monthly premium tax credit amount	\$263
Average monthly premium after tax credit	\$101

Source: Gallup-Healthways Well Being Index, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Kaiser Family Foundation Graphic: TNS

Report: Japan productivity gains are vital to staving off decline

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's future prosperity will depend on improving its lagging productivity, says a report by McKinsey Global Institute that urges companies to boost their competitiveness by better use of their workers.

Japan's population of about 127 million began declining in 2011 and is rapidly aging, a trend seen in many industrialized countries. The country's gains in productivity—or the value added for each hour of labor—have lagged behind other wealthy countries in almost all industries, even advanced manufacturing.

That has hurt wage growth and also keeps returns on investment comparatively low, even for the largest Japanese companies, says the report, released Tuesday.

Japan's labor productivity lags 32 percent behind Germany's and 29 percent behind that in the U.S.—a gap that will widen to 37 percent over the next decade and ensure continued stagnation, the report said. Only in real estate did Japan show higher productivity than the U.S.

"Many of the barriers and bottlenecks that have constrained growth are not imposed by regulation; they stem from traditional ways of doing business," the report said. "Japan can reach 50 percent to 70 percent of its productivity goal by adopting practices

that are already in use around the world, while most of the remaining improvement can be captured by deploying new technologies."

The report suggests better use of women and older workers; improved access to financing for entrepreneurs, and a more aggressive approach to tackling global markets by making company management more global in nature.

At stake is the country's economic future: Without improvements, Japan's per capita GDP will likely fall to \$32,000, down from \$46,736 in 2012. With major gains, it would at least hold steady, at about \$48,000, the report says.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has made improving Japan's competitiveness a priority of his "Abenomics" growth strategy, which has so far mainly focused on lavish monetary stimulus and public works spending. Abe's government has also drawn up a sweeping set of proposed reforms meant to spur growth, the third of his three economic policy "arrows" but has made little headway in what will be a years' long battle against vested interests in many industries.

"There is a fourth arrow, in a sense, which is what will companies actually do?" said Georges Desvaux, managing partner of McKinsey & Company's Japan office.

Court case in which opponents argue that its subsidies are illegal in most states. They contend that the exact wording of the law only allows subsidized coverage in states that have set up their own insurance markets. Most have not done so, relying

instead on the federal Health-Care.gov.

The administration counters that the context of the law makes it clear the purpose was to expand coverage in every state. A decision is expected to be announced by late June.

For business, more women in charge means bigger profits

LONDON (AP)—When Rohini Anand took over diversity programs at multinational catering company Sodexo in 2002, she had one goal: To prove that it pays for a company to have equal numbers of male and female managers.

Sodexo, which has 419,000 employees in 80 countries, says she's done just that. A company-wide study last year found that units with equal numbers of men and women in management roles delivered more profits more consistently than those dominated by men.

"It has become embedded now. It's not just me talking about it anymore," Anand says with "I told you so" satisfaction.

Evidence is growing that gender equity is not just politically correct window-dressing, but good business. Companies are trying to increase the number of women in executive positions, yet many are struggling to do so because of a failure to adapt workplace conditions in a way that ensures qualified women do not drop off the corporate ladder, surveys show.

The case for companies to act is compelling.

In a survey last year of 366 companies, consultancy McKinsey & Co. found that those whose leadership roles were most balanced between men and women were more likely to report financial returns above their national industry median.

Companies with more balanced leadership do a better job recruiting and retaining talented workers, reducing the costs associated with replacing top executives, McKinsey found. They also have stronger customer relations because management better reflects the diversity of society, and they tend to make better business decisions because a wider array of viewpoints is considered.

Apple CEO Tim Cook, who came out as gay last year, told PBS it was important to hire people who "complement you, because you want to build a puzzle."

"You don't want to stack Chiclets up and have everyone be the same," he said.

While most big companies now have programs to increase gender diversity, many executives express frustration these programs aren't working. McKinsey found that 63 percent of the employers it surveyed had at least 20 initiatives to address gender equity, but women held less than a quarter of the top jobs in 92 percent of the companies.

Sandrine Devillard, who has been studying the issue for the consultancy for about 16 years, said companies were nonchalant about retaining top female talent when she started. Now they want to know what programs work. Fast.

That's because a woman's prospects for promotion fall off at every step of the career ladder, according to a separate survey of 130 large companies conducted by McKinsey in 2012. While women made up 37 percent of the total workforce, they comprised 22 percent of middle managers, 14 percent of senior managers and vice presidents, 9 percent of executive committee members and 2 percent of CEOs.

In France, Norway, Spain and most recently Germany, governments have sought to mandate progress by imposing quotas for women on boards.

Norway had the highest percentage of women on boards—35 percent—among 20 countries in Western Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region last year, according to data compiled by Catalyst, which researches gender equity. The U.S. and Australia were tied for 10th at 19 percent.

Board quotas alone won't close the gender gap because they only address the final step in the career ladder, researchers say. The real challenge for employers is to hire, train and promote talented women so they have a pipeline of qualified female candidates when they need to fill senior roles.

"We're on the cusp of a revolution," says Cary Cooper, a professor at Lancaster University Management School in Britain. "If organizations don't allow more flexibility, more autonomy, they're just going to keep losing (women)."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

ADB president: China-led bank potential partner, not rival

BEIJING (AP)—The president of the Asian Development Bank says a proposed Chinese-led regional bank is a potential partner rather than a rival and the ADB is talking with Beijing to share its experience. Takehiko Nakao's comments came after Washington softened its opposition to the Chinese-proposed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and suggested it work together with existing entities such as the World Bank. The Manila-based ADB is ready to collaborate with the AIIB if it meets environmental, social and other standards for lending, Nakao said in an interview ahead of Tuesday's release of his bank's regional economic outlook. U.S. officials worry the bank might become an instrument of Chinese foreign policy and undermine the World Bank or other institutions by offering credit with few conditions.

SeaWorld has new ad campaign after disparaging documentary

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—SeaWorld Entertainment Inc. is mounting a public defense of its animal handling in a new advertising campaign that began Monday, after a highly critical 2013 documentary left the park with declining revenue and attendance. The print and YouTube campaign focuses on the marine-life theme park's efforts to care for animals in captivity and in the wild. Revenue and attendance at SeaWorld have fallen since the release of the documentary "Blackfish," which examined what led a killer whale to drown a trainer in 2010 at SeaWorld's Orlando park. The YouTube campaign shows videos of behind-the-scenes caring for SeaWorld's marine mammals by the company's veterinarians. The print campaign features the company's top veterinarian saying the animals' "health and well-being is my priority every day." The print ads will appear in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, and also in newspapers in Orlando, San Diego and San Antonio where SeaWorld has parks. A television campaign will follow later this spring.

Nation

Police: No evidence of gang-rape at University of Virginia

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP)—A four-month police investigation into an alleged gang rape at the University of Virginia that Rolling Stone magazine described in graphic detail produced no evidence of the attack and was stymied by the accuser's unwillingness to cooperate, authorities said Monday.

The article, titled "A rape on campus," focused on a student identified only as "Jackie" who said she was raped at the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity more than two years earlier.

It described a hidden culture of sexual violence fueled by binge drinking at the college. Police said they found no evidence of that either.

There were numerous discrepancies between the article, published in November 2014, and what investigators found, said Charlottesville Police Chief Timothy Longo, who took care not to accuse Jackie of lying.

The case is suspended, not



AP
Charlottesville Police Chief Timothy Longo, right, speaks during a news conference as Detective Sgt. DJ Harris, center, and Detective Jake Via stand near Monday, March 23, 2015, in Charlottesville, Va.

closed, and the fact that investigators could not find evidence years later "doesn't mean that something terrible didn't hap-

pen to Jackie," Longo said.

He appealed for anyone with information about any sexual violence to immediate-

ly alert police, and expressed hope that Jackie may one day feel comfortable explaining what really happened.

"There's a difference between a false allegation and something that happened that may have been different than what was described in that article," Longo said.

Asked if Jackie would be charged with making a false report, he said: "Absolutely not."

Jackie's attorney, Palma Pustilnik, said she would have no comment on the investigation.

Accurate or not, the article heightened scrutiny of campus sexual assaults amid a campaign by President Barack Obama to end them. The University of Virginia had already been on the Department of Education's list of 55 colleges under investigation for their handling of sex assault violations.

Longo said Jackie's first mention of an alleged assault came without key details, during a meeting she had with a dean about an academic issue in May 2013. The dean brought in police, but the case was dropped because Jackie didn't want them

to investigate, Longo said.

In any case, the "sexual act" she described that year was "not consistent with what was described" in the Rolling Stone article.

Almost immediately, news organizations found discrepancies that prompted the magazine to print an apology.

University of Virginia President Teresa Sullivan asked police to investigate, and they called Jackie in for another interview. She showed up with a lawyer and again refused to talk.

Rolling Stone eventually asked the dean of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism to review its editorial process and the piece by its contributing editor, Sabrina Rubin Erdely. The magazine said Monday that the review's results are "imminent" and would be published in a couple of weeks.

Investigators spoke to about 70 people, including friends of the accuser and fraternity members, and spent hundreds of hours on the investigation, Longo said. None provided any evidence supporting the claim of a gang rape at the Phi Kappa Psi house. They gathered ample evidence casting doubt on Jackie's claims, he said.

Cruz targets conservatives as he starts White House run

LYNCHBURG, Va. (AP)—Launching his bid for the Republican presidential nomination, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas asked Christian conservative voters to imagine a United States without the IRS, Obamacare or abortion rights—and to imagine they can make that happen by supporting him.

His aspirational appeal on Monday, aimed at America's most conservative voters, could quickly run into challenges in winning over moderate voters—and eventually deep difficulties in governing should Cruz win the White House.

But it's a message that Cruz, the first major 2016 contender to declare himself a candidate, is expected to forcefully emphasize in the coming year before voters start to pick nominees.

"God's blessing has been on America from the very beginning of this nation, and I believe that God isn't done with Americans," Cruz declared at Liberty University, a Christian school founded by the late Rev. Jerry Falwell.

"I believe in you. I believe in the power of millions of courageous conservatives rising up to reignite the promise of Ameri-

ca. And that is that is why, today, I am announcing that I am running for president of the United States of America."

Cruz won't be the sole GOP contender for long. Two Senate colleagues, Kentucky's Rand Paul and Florida's Marco Rubio, are eyeing campaign launches soon. And former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, are expected to follow, among others.

The 44-year-old Cruz is betting his White House hopes on profoundly conservative voters and their opposition to policies they find abhorrent.

Within such circles, there is deep distrust of the IRS, which was revealed last year to have been scrutinizing tea party groups' nonprofit status.

Scuttling President Barack Obama's health care legislation, called by some "Obamacare," is a rallying cry, as well. And abortion is a major issue for Christian conservatives who have tremendous sway in the lead-off caucus and primary election states of Iowa and South Carolina.



Source: U.S. Senate

Graphic: TNS

Search for missing Alaska family of 4 comes to grim end

KENAI, Alaska (AP)—A nearly yearlong search for a missing Alaska family has come to a grim end with the discovery of four bodies, a dead dog and a handgun just off a trail in a rural area near the family's home.

Authorities said Monday they could not comment on the circumstances surrounding the deaths but there's no reason to believe anyone else was involved.

Rebecca Adams, 23; her boyfriend, Brandon Jividen, 38; and her children, Michelle Hundley, 6, and Jaracca Hundley, 3, lived on a quiet street on the outskirts of Kenai, a fishing community of 7,100 about 65 miles southwest of Anchorage.

They were last seen in May.

At the time, relatives said it appeared the family left without packing. The couple's two vehicles were parked outside their duplex, and their rent for June had not been paid. The family's dog—an English springer spaniel named Sparks—also was gone.

Kenai police Lt. Dave Ross said Monday the bodies haven't been officially identified by a coroner, but authorities have every indication it's the missing family.

A gun found with the bodies matched the serial number from a box found in the family's home, he said. Officers also discovered other items reported missing from the residence, and a dog was found dead at the scene.

Ross said there's no reason

to believe another person was involved in the deaths, and it appears the four people died where they were found.

He provided few other details, saying the investigation remains open and "is very much in an active stage."

The bodies were discovered within a half-mile of the family's home late Saturday after a person driving a vehicle on a trail spotted clothing and human remains and called police.

The bodies were about 15 yards from the trail, which is used mostly by four-wheelers and snowmobiles. They were in a slight depression in the ground amid grass and bushes, Ross said.

"If you were standing on the trail, you probably would not have seen them with the foliage the way it was," he said. On Monday, patchy snow covered the flat, undeveloped area near Wildwood Correction Center.

When the family disappeared, authorities conducted a massive search using airplanes, helicopters and dogs. It covered a wide area around the family's home, and divers at one point searched a pond. Twenty agencies participated.

"I can only speculate how close searchers may have come," Ross said.

Police said it would take time to positively identify the remains and complete the investigation.

ACROSS THE NATION

After 22 years on death row, woman sees murder case tossed

PHOENIX (AP)—An Arizona woman who spent more than two decades on death row in her 4-year-old son's killing saw her murder charge dismissed Monday, bringing an end to a controversial case that relied almost entirely on the work of a detective with a long history of misconduct. Debra Milke hugged her supporters and sobbed as she left the courtroom where a judge formally dismissed the case, saying it cannot be tried again, less than a week after prosecutors lost their final appeal. In a brief hearing, Judge Rosa Mroz also allowed Milke, who has been free on bond since 2013, to have her electronic-monitoring ankle bracelet removed. Milke, 51, emerged from a conference room a short time later without the device. "It feels good," Milke said, pulling up one pant leg to show her unencumbered ankle. Milke was convicted of murder in 1990 in the death of her son, Christopher. Authorities say Milke dressed him in his favorite outfit and told him he was going to see Santa Claus at a mall in December 1989. He was then taken to the desert near Phoenix by two men, one of whom was Milke's roommate, and shot in the back of the head.

No bond for millionaire Durst on New Orleans weapons charges

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Millionaire murder suspect Robert Durst is a flight risk and a danger to others, a judge decided Monday after considering what FBI agents found in his hotel room: an elaborate disguise and other escape tools fit for a spy movie. Durst was arrested at the J.W. Marriott hotel in New Orleans, where he had registered under the name Everette Ward and was lying low while HBO aired the final chapters of his life story. FBI agents recovered his passport and birth certificate, an apparently fake Texas ID, stacks of \$100 bills, bags of marijuana, a .38-caliber revolver, a map folded to show Louisiana and Cuba, and a flesh-toned latex mask with salt-and-pepper hair. "This was not a mask for Halloween;" it was a disguise extending down to the chest, Assistant District Attorney Mark Burton said. Durst stopped using his cellphone after HBO aired the next-to-last episode of the "The Jinx," its six-part documentary about him, and bought but apparently never activated a new cellphone, Burton added.

Asia

Trial begins in PH of US Marine charged with murder

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A U.S. Marine charged with murdering a transgender Filipino after allegedly discovering her gender when they checked into a hotel went on trial in a Philippine court Monday.

U.S. security escorts brought Marine Pfc. Joseph Scott Pemberton, wearing handcuffs, into a heavily secured courtroom in Olongapo city, northwest of Manila, for the trial after an earlier plea-bargain negotiation with the family of the victim, Jennifer Laude, reportedly collapsed, lawyers for Laude's family said.

Pemberton is charged with murder, which carries a maximum penalty of life in prison. The court registered a not guilty plea for him last month after he refused to enter a plea.

Government prosecutors expressed confidence they could win a conviction.

"We will prove the elements of murder," state prosecutor Emilie de los Santos told reporters, referring to what she has described as "treachery, abuse of superior strength and cruelty" in the attack on



U.S. Marine Pfc. Joseph Scott Pemberton, third left, the suspect in the Oct. 11, 2014 killing of Filipino transgender Jennifer Laude at the former U.S. naval base of Subic, northwest of Manila, is escorted into the courtroom for his scheduled trial Monday, March 23, 2015 at Olongapo city, Zambales province, northwest of Manila, Philippines.

the victim, who was formerly known as Jeffrey Laude.

Pemberton, an anti-tank missile operator from New Bedford, Massachusetts, is accused of strangling Laude and then drowning her in a hotel toilet last October after discovering she was a transgender woman. Prosecutors say they checked into the hotel after meeting in a bar in a red-light district.

Pemberton was bar-hopping with fellow Marines at the time after participating in joint U.S.-Philippine military exercises.

Government prosecutors presented their first witness, hotel worker Elias Gallamos, who identified Pemberton as the man who was with Laude shortly before she was found dead, according to Ethel Avisado, a lawyer for Laude's family.

The case reignited a debate over custody of American military personnel accused of crimes in the Philippines. The dispute was eased after Washington agreed to move Pemberton from a U.S. warship to the Philippine military's main camp in metropolitan Manila, where he is held under American cus-

tody but with an outer ring of Filipino guards.

Weeks before the trial, there was talk that the two sides were quietly discussing a possible plea-bargain agreement in which Pemberton would reportedly plead guilty to a lower charge in exchange for money for the Laude family. Both sides on Monday denied initiating the talks.

Laude's mother, Julita, told reporters she would not drop the case against Pemberton even if she was offered a million dollars.

"What they did to my child was gruesome," she said. "Just because we are poor doesn't mean we can't fight for justice."

The case occurred at a time when the Philippines and the United States have strengthened their military ties with the recent signing of a defense accord that allows greater U.S. access to Philippine military camps.

The accord will help Washington's bid to reassert its presence in Asia, and enable Manila to deter what it calls aggressive moves by China to push claims to disputed South China Sea territories.

Lee's authoritarian legacy may fall short for new Singapore

SINGAPORE (AP)—Lee Kuan Yew brought prosperity to Singapore with an authoritarian system designed to outlast him, but that legacy may be ill-suited for the 21st-century challenges facing the tropical city-state.

One of the last of a generation of Southeast Asian strongmen, Lee died Monday at age 91 after being hospitalized in early February, suffering from severe pneumonia. The famously blunt-speaking autocrat stepped down as prime minister in 1990, but for decades after remained a commanding presence in Singapore politics and the region. His son is the current prime minister.

His death is an inflection point for Singapore. After gaining self-rule from Britain in 1959, the island at the tip of

the Malay Peninsula was transformed under Lee's iron leadership into a wealthy finance and manufacturing powerhouse.

To give his government a free hand to fashion a new society, Lee systematically crushed dissent, muzzled the press and imprisoned political opponents. A social compact of authoritarian government in exchange for a guarantee of prosperity has endured for two generations.

Now, it is increasingly under strain.

Singaporeans prize the pluses such as low crime, harmony between the Chinese majority and Malay Muslim minority and almost zero corruption in a region where graft is rampant. But an increasing number fret that the ruling party has pushed

their country of 5.4 million in the wrong direction in the past two decades. Income inequality has soared and large-scale immigration has increased competition for jobs and depressed wages. Destitute elderly Singaporeans pushing carts along the city's immaculate streets, collecting cardboard and plastic that they sell to recyclers, are vivid evidence of the gaping holes in its social safety net.

"There's dissatisfaction, you can feel it, and people are stirring for change," said Lynn Su-lin, a 56-year-old business owner. She is of a generation that hails Lee's achievements as "amazing" and worries younger Singaporeans don't fully appreciate their inheritance. Without Lee, "we're a bit frightened of what will happen."

The ruling party suffered a

stinging setback in 2011 elections. By the standards of Western democracies it was an overwhelming victory, but the People's Action Party's share of the vote fell and the tiny opposition picked up seats. In response, the government has doled out more social welfare in recent budgets and slowed immigration, but the changes may not yet be bold or fast enough to placate an increasingly vocal electorate.

"The idea that people only vote for the opposition when they are desperate is no longer true, if it ever was true," said Garry Rodan, a Southeast Asia expert at Murdoch University in Perth, Australia. "Some of the last budget measures may not have come without opposition gains in elections."

Pakistan: Short-range nukes needed to deter India

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pakistan needs short-range "tactical" nuclear weapons to deter arch-rival India, a top adviser to its government said Monday, dismissing concerns it could increase the risk of a nuclear war.

Khalid Kidwai also rejected concerns over the security of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, insisting that adequate safeguards are in place to protect what analysts have described as the world's fastest-growing atomic arsenal.

Pakistan's development of smaller warheads built for use on battlefields, in addition to longer-range weapons, has increased international concerns that they could get into rogue hands because of the pervasive

threat of Islamic militants in the country.

Pakistan and its larger neighbor India have fought three wars. They have held on-off peace talks over the years but are involved in a nuclear and missile arms race that shows no sign of abating.

Neither side discloses the size of its arsenal. But a recent report by the Council on Foreign Relations think tank estimated that Pakistan has enough fissile material to produce between 110 and 120 nuclear weapons, and India enough for 90 to 110 weapons.

For 15 years, Kidwai led the administration of Pakistan's nuclear and missile weapons

program. He now serves as an adviser to the National Command Authority, a committee of the top civilian and military leaders that sets the country's nuclear weapons policy. He spoke Monday at a conference on nuclear security organized by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington.

On the sidelines of the conference, Rakesh Sood, former Indian special envoy for disarmament and nonproliferation, said it was "extremely destabilizing for any country to develop tactical nuclear weapons" and that India has no plans to. He contended that Pakistan's nuclear doctrine is "cloaked in ambiguity" which undermines

confidence between the two countries.

Kidwai said nuclear deterrence had helped prevent war in South Asia. He said Pakistan's development of tactical weapons—in the form of the Nasr missile, which has a 37-mile (60-kilometer) range—was in response to concerns that India's larger military could still wage a conventional war against the country, thinking Pakistan would not risk retaliation with a bigger nuclear weapon.

Peter Lavoy, a former senior U.S. defense official, questioned whether such intermingling of conventional forces and nuclear weapons in a battlefield could increase the risk of nuclear war.

Okinawa orders halt to work related to US base relocation

TOKYO (AP)—The governor of the southern Japanese island of Okinawa ordered a Defense Ministry branch to suspend all work in the area where a key U.S. military air base is to be relocated, in a growing confrontation between the island and the central government.

Gov. Takeshi Onaga said Monday that a concrete anchor thrown into the sea for a drilling survey at the site is believed have damaged coral.

It was his first specific action to interfere with the relocation since taking office four months ago. His predecessor's approval of the plan had allowed the Defense Bureau to begin preparing the site in Henoko for the relocation of the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Onaga told a news conference that the use of concrete blocks had not been authorized. He said the prefecture needs to assess the damage, and demanded the Defense Bureau stop all activity related to the relocation within one week or lose its license for the drilling work, which could put the entire relocation on hold.

The central government's effort to gain Okinawa's understanding of the relocation is "insufficient," he said. "I urge the Defense Bureau to take the order seriously and take a responsible step."

It was not immediately clear whether his order would be followed.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a news conference that officials are cur-

rently studying the suspension order, but that the survey should proceed regardless of it. He criticized Onaga for altering the concession that Okinawa had made under its previous leader.

"I don't see any reason why we should halt the operation," Suga said. "This is a law-abiding nation. It is extremely regrettable that (Onaga) submitted the document (ordering the suspension) at this stage."

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said that the U.S. understanding was that construction "will proceed as planned."

"Construction of the replacement facility is a meaningful result of many years of sustained work between the U.S. and Japan. It's also a critical step toward realizing our shared vision for the realignment of U.S. forces on Okinawa," she told reporters.

The current Futenma base is in a densely populated part of the island, and its relocation is intended to address safety and nuisance concerns. But many people on Okinawa want Futenma moved completely off the island. Opponents also say the construction would endanger the coral reef, tropical fish and other marine life.

The underwater drilling, which had been halted before last November's election in an apparent attempt by the central government to avoid controversy, resumed earlier this month to prepare for the land reclamation needed to build an airstrip over the water from Camp Schwab, another American military base.

World

Yemen FM: President Hadi calls for Gulf military, UN action

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemen's embattled President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi has asked Gulf countries to intervene militarily against Shiite rebels who have seized the capital and are advancing toward his new base in the south, his foreign minister told Saudi media Monday.

Riad Yassin said Hadi has also asked the United Nations to impose a no-fly zone so that the rebels, known as Houthis, cannot use the airports they seized. He accused the rebels of being a proxy of Shiite Iran, charges they deny.

Yassin spoke to Saudi-owned Al-Hadath TV on Monday. He made similar comments to the Saudi-owned Asharq al-Awsat newspaper.

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal meanwhile warned that "if the Houthi coup does not end peacefully, we will take the necessary measures for this crisis to protect the region."

He did not elaborate further. Riyadh also renewed its offer to host talks between Yemen's rival groups— which has already been rejected by the rebels.

The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council -- Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Bahrain -- warned earlier this year that they would act to protect the



AP
In this Saturday, March 21, 2015 file photo, Members of a militia group loyal to Yemen's President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, known as the Popular Committees, chew qat, Yemen's favorite drug, as they sit next to their tank, guarding a major intersection in Aden, Yemen.

Arabian Peninsula's security and described the Houthi takeover of parts of Yemen as a "terrorist" act.

"Time is not on our side," Yassin told Al-Hadath. He didn't say what Gulf military intervention would entail but said

the Houthis' advance toward Hadi's base in the southern city of Aden must be stopped. He said the rebels want to foil attempts to reach a political solution.

Yassin said the request was made to the Gulf Cooperation

Council after warplanes struck near the presidential palace in Aden over the weekend. Hadi was not harmed in the attack.

The Gulf countries' emergency military force, known as the Peninsula Shield, intervened in Bahrain in 2011 to help the

Sunni monarchy crush protests backed by the Shiite majority.

The call for intervention

comes days ahead of an Arab Summit in Egypt. It's unclear whether Hadi will be able to leave Yemen in order to attend.

Saudi Arabia last intervened in Yemen in late 2009 and early 2010, launching airstrikes and artillery rounds against Houthis near its border, following a cross border attack against its soldiers. More than 130 Saudi soldiers were killed.

At the time, the Houthis were waging an insurgency against then-President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who is now allied with them.

On Sunday, rebel leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi said his forces will keep advancing south, referring to Hadi as a "puppet" of international powers.

Israel's Netanyahu apologizes to country's Arab minority

JERUSALEM (AP)—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu apologized to Israel's Arab citizens on Monday for remarks he made during last week's parliament election that offended members of the community.

The move appeared to be an attempt to heal rifts and mute criticism at home and in the United States. Netanyahu drew accusations of racism in Israel, especially from its Arab minority, and a White House rebuke when, just a few hours before polling stations were to close across the country, he warned that Arab citizens were voting "in droves."

But President Barack Obama's chief of staff, Denis McDonough, rejected Netanyahu's attempt to distance himself from his comments, telling an Israel advocacy group Monday that the U.S. can't just overlook what Netanyahu said on the eve of his re-election.

Netanyahu, whose Likud Party won re-election in the vote, met with members of the Arab community at the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem on Monday and apologized.

He said he knows his "comments last week offended some Israeli citizens and offended

members of the Israeli-Arab community."

"This was never my intent. I apologize for this," Netanyahu said. "I view myself as the prime minister of each and every citizen of Israel, without any prejudice based on religion, ethnicity or gender."

"I view all Israeli citizens as partners in the building of a prosperous and safe state of Israel, for all Israelis," he also said.

A recently established alliance of four small, mostly Arab parties called the Joint List made unprecedented gains in the March 17 election, earn-

ing enough votes to make it the third-largest party in Israel's parliament. Arab citizens make up 20 percent of Israel's population. Equality is guaranteed in Israel's laws but many Arabs have long complained of discrimination, mainly in the job and housing market.

Ayman Odeh, the head of the Joint List, told channel 2 TV that Netanyahu's apology was not accepted.

"This is not a real apology," Odeh said. "He incited against citizens who were exercising their basic right to vote for Knesset."

WHO denies politics swayed Ebola emergency declaration

LONDON (AP)—The World Health Organization denied Monday that politics swayed the decision to declare an international emergency over the spread of the Ebola virus last year, despite evidence senior staffers repeatedly discussed the diplomatic and economic fallout of such a move.

A year after WHO declared that Ebola had been found in Guinea, the agency is on the defensive over reports that it dragged its feet when raising the international alarm over the disease. Internal communications published by The Associated Press last week documented senior agency staff discouraging the move

about two months before the international alert was finally raised, citing diplomatic relations, mining interests and the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca.

WHO spokeswoman Dr. Margaret Harris said Monday that "political considerations did not play a role" and that notions to the contrary were due to a misinterpretation of the leaked documents.

Political worries appear to loom large in the communications obtained by AP, which include emails and memoranda. A June 10 memo sent to WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan says declaring an emergency—or convening a committee to discuss the issue—

could be seen as a "hostile act" by Ebola-affected countries. When senior African staff floated the idea of declaring an emergency on June 4, WHO official Dr. Sylvie Briand wrote that she saw such a move as a "last resort."

An international emergency was eventually declared on Aug. 8, by which point nearly 1,000 people had died.

Ebola was judged to have become a health emergency with international implications nearly a month earlier by the U.S. Centers for Disease Prevention and Control.

"I activated the emergency operations center at the CDC on July 9," said Dr. Tom Frie-

den, CDC director, meaning the agency moved immediately to put the organization's full weight behind efforts to curb Ebola in mid-July.

Frieden said WHO's international emergency declaration should have been based mainly on health criteria.

"We need to ensure the technical issues are always the primary issues that lead to the decisions that are made," he said.

WHO argues that an emergency—the equivalent of a global SOS—wasn't needed despite criteria which suggest one is warranted when there's a high risk that the disease will jump to another country and spark a new outbreak there.

Knox and ex-boyfriend face parallel trial by social media

MILAN (AP)—Italy's highest court this week takes up the Amanda Knox case for the second time as a parallel trial-by-social media rages online, with partisans on both sides seeking to shape public opinion over a murder case that has polarized observers in three nations.

While the Internet advocacy and sparring over the Knox trial details—on blogs, forums and most vociferously on Twitter—have no bearing on the real court case, observers and participants say it does have a role in shaping public opinion, particularly in the United States, where the exchanges are most acerbic.

And public opinion could eventually have some bearing, if a confirmed guilty verdict requires Knox to serve a sentence and Italy seeks to extradite her.

"This has become their life, and both sides are desperate to win any way they can. Even if that is in the court of public opinion, they will take that win," said Laurie Levenson, a law professor who directs the center for legal advocacy at Loyola Law School. "Everyone has woken up and realized that the law is not etched in stone. It is in the eye of the beholder and they are trying to influence that."

The Italian Court of Cassation on Wednesday is expected to rule on Knox's and her former Italian boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito's appeals to their guilty verdicts in British student Meredith Kercher's 2007 killing, issued last year by a Florence appeals court that sentenced Knox to 28 1/2 years and Sollecito to 25 years.

Both had been found guilty by a trial court in Perugia, then freed after a Perugia appellate court overturned the convictions, only to find themselves back in an appellate court after the high court vacated the acquittals in a harsh rebuke of the Perugia chief appellate judge's reasoning.

Knox, who spent four years in jail during the investigation and after her lower court conviction, remains free in the United States. She has vowed never to return willingly to Italy. If her conviction is upheld now or in future decisions, any decision on her extradition will include a political component that could, in some part, be swayed by public opinion.

"She would need a groundswell of support to at least stave off the (U.S.) government from moving forward" on any extradition request from Italy, said Levenson.

Focus

By ROD McGUIRK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A nightclub bouncer who reportedly became a terror group leader. A man who tweeted a photo of his young son clutching a severed head. A teenager who is believed to have turned suicide bomber, and others suspected of attempting to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State movement. All of them, Australian.

The London-based International Center for the Study of Radicalization and Political Violence reports that between 100 and 250 Australians have joined Sunni militants in Iraq and Syria. Given Australia's vast distance from the region and its population of just 24 million, it is a remarkable number. The center estimates that about 100 fighters came from the United States, which has more than 13 times as many people as Australia.

Experts disagree about why the Islamic State group has been so effective recruiting in Australia, which is widely regarded as a multicultural success story, with an economy in an enviable 24th year of continuous growth.

Possible explanations include that some Australian Muslims are poorly integrated with the rest of the country, and that Islamic State recruiters have given Australia particular attention. In addition, the Australian government failed to keep tabs on some citizens who had been radicalized, and moderate Muslims have been put off by some of Prime Minister Tony Abbott's comments about their community.

Greg Barton, a global terrorism expert at Monash University in Melbourne, said Australia and some other countries underestimated Islamic State's "pull factor."

"We're all coming to terms with the fact that this is a formidable targeter and predatory recruiter that goes after individuals one by one with a very masterful use of technology, and our sense of confidence that because we've got society working well makes us secure misses the point," Barton said.

Muslims make up about 2.2 percent of the population in Australia, compared to just 1 percent in the United States. And while many U.S. Muslims are from families who migrated in pursuit of the American economic dream, a larger proportion of Australian Muslims are from families who fled Lebanon's civil war in the 1970s and '80s.

Australian Muslims of Lebanese origin are largely based in Sydney, the country's biggest city. They have been less

Australia a puzzling hotbed of Islamic State recruiting



AP
In this Dec. 15, 2014 file photo, a hostage runs to armed tactical response police officers for safety after she escaped from a cafe under siege at Martin Place in the central business district of Sydney, Australia.

successful in integrating into Australian society than many other groups, and the first Australian-born generation of these migrant families has been over-represented in terrorism offenses and general street crime.

Mohammad Ali Baryalei, an ethnic Lebanese who reportedly became a high-ranking member of the Islamic State group's operational command, was formerly a Sydney nightclub bouncer and bit-part television actor. Australian security agencies suspect he single-handedly recruited dozens of Australians and helped them enter Syria.

Once a Sydney street preacher with the Muslim group Street Dawah, Baryalei was reportedly killed in battle in Syria last fall at age 33. The Australian government has yet to confirm his death.

Baryalei is accused in court documents of inciting from afar Islamic State sympathizers in Sydney to brutally slay a randomly selected victim. Security services recorded a telephone conversation between him and Omarjan Azari, who is awaiting trial on charges that include preparing to commit a terrorist act.

"What you guys need to do is pick any random unbeliever," Baryalei allegedly told Azari, according to court testimony. "Backpacker, tourist, American, French or British, even better."

Sydney-born Khaled Sharrouf, also ethnic Lebanese,

horrified millions last year by posting on his Twitter account a photo of his 7-year-old son clutching the severed head of a Syrian soldier. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry described the image as "one of the most disturbing, stomach-turning, grotesque photographs ever displayed."

Sharrouf's appearance on the Syrian battlefield highlighted a flaw in Australia's defenses against the Islamic State group: lax border security. Sharrouf had served a prison sentence in Australia for planning a foiled terrorist attack and had been banned from leaving the country, but used his brother's passport to leave in 2013.

The Australian government acknowledged there was a problem with a system of airport security that was more focused on who was coming in than on who was leaving. The government announced in August that biometric screening will be rolled out at all Australian international airports as part of 630 million Australian dollars (\$500 million) in new spending on intelligence, law enforcement and border protection.

Counterterrorism police units have been attached to major airports to screen passengers. The unit at Sydney Airport was instrumental in recently intercepting two Sydney-born brothers, aged 16 and 17, who were about to fly to Turkey without their parents' knowledge. Authorities sus-

pect the brothers were headed to Syria.

Australia's net still has holes. Jake Bilardi, an 18-year-old who converted to Islam a few years ago, had avoided Australia's counterterror radar when he left his Melbourne home for Syria in August. After Bilardi's family reported him missing, police found chemicals that could be used to make a bomb at his home. Images of Bilardi armed with a rifle in front of Islamic flags appeared on social media sites later that year.

A picture of a young man resembling Bilardi behind the wheel of a van was posted this month with claims from the Islamic State group that foreign fighters from Australia and other countries took part in a near-simultaneous attack in Iraq that involved at least 13 suicide car bombs and killed two police officers. The Australian government has yet to confirm Bilardi's death.

Bilardi's father, who became estranged from Bilardi and his five older siblings after divorcing their mother, said the Islamic State recruit had had psychological problems as a child that were not addressed.

"He was a soft target," John Bilardi told Australia's "60 Minutes" television program in an interview broadcast on Sunday.

"He was a prize; he was a

trophy that they paraded online. They gloated about how they had recruited this young boy who didn't even have a Muslim background," he said.

"They used him for their own—what cause? All I see is that they're murdering people, including my son," he added.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has been granted enhanced powers to prevent Australians from joining IS and, in some cases, from returning to Australia. She has canceled about 100 passports, including Jake Bilardi's, though he left before his passport was revoked.

Keeping would-be militants from leaving Australia, however, increases the risk that they will wreak havoc at home.

Numan Haider, an 18-year-old Muslim Australian of Afghan origin, stabbed two Melbourne police officers and was shot dead in September, a week after his passport had been canceled. He had caught authorities' attention months earlier over what police considered to be troubling behavior, including waving what appeared to be an Islamic State flag at a shopping mall.

Australian authorities were clearly taken by surprise by the growing domestic menace posed by Islamic State followers. Less than a year ago, officials reduced security at Parliament House to cut costs. Since

then, security at the seat of national government has been increased to unprecedented levels.

In September, the government raised Australia's terrorist threat level to the second-highest level on a four-tier scale. Police attempting to disrupt terrorist plots have raided scores of homes. Several suspects have been charged and others have been detained without charge under new counterterrorism laws. The nation's main domestic spy agency is juggling more than 400 high-priority counterterrorism investigations—more than double the number a year ago.

But the intensified vigilance was no hindrance to Man Monis, a 50-year-old Iranian-born, self-styled cleric with a long criminal history. In December, Monis took 18 people hostage at a downtown Sydney cafe, forced them to hold up a flag bearing the Islamic declaration of faith against a cafe window and demanded he be delivered a flag of the Islamic State group. Monis and two hostages were killed at the end of a 16-hour siege.

A government review found that Monis had fallen off a terrorist watch list despite repeated warnings to security services from members of the public concerned by his online rants. As a Shiite Muslim, he was thought an unlikely recruit to Islamic State, a Sunni Muslim movement.

As traumatic as the hostage crisis was, it could not be compared to the enormity of the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States. Hass Dellal, executive director of the Australian Multicultural Foundation, which promotes awareness of cultural diversity within Australia, said that history might make Americans more resistant to Islamic State recruiting.

Dellal also said public discussion of issues around radicalization and extremism is more balanced in the United States than in Australia, which effectively banned Middle Eastern Muslims from immigrating until the 1970s.

Some Muslims have been critical of comments by Prime Minister Abbott, accusing him of driving a wedge between them and the rest of Australia.

"I've often heard Western leaders describe Islam as a religion of peace. I wish more Muslim leaders would say that more often, and mean it," Abbott in a speech in February that angered many Muslims with its suggestion of duplicity.

Barton, the Monash University expert, said Australia may prove to be not so different from the United States, if the Islamic State group expands its influence in America.

"It may be a lag effect," Barton said. "It may be in six months' time, the figures are much more comparable."

Good Housekeeping

Mulch Madness and basic buying tips

By MIKE LAFOLLETTE
ANGIE'S LIST

Nothing signals the return of spring like a smelly pile of mulch.

Aside from its questionable stench, mulch plays an essential role in landscaping, from boosting curb appeal to retaining moisture and suffocating weeds.

But before you hire a landscaper or get out the wheelbar-

row, you'll first need to decide how much mulch you need.

Bulk and bagged mulch

Landscapers and garden centers sell mulch in bulk or by the bag. The most common size of bagged mulch is 2 cubic feet. Bulk mulch sells by the cubic yard. One cubic yard of mulch is equal to 13.5 bags of mulch.

When buying in bulk, you can have it delivered to your

home, or pick it up if you have access to a truck or trailer. Expect to pay an additional \$45 to \$55 for mulch delivery.

Types of mulch

Most mulch dealers sell their own mix of "economy mulch," which is typically a low-end variety that costs \$19 to \$25 per yard, or \$2 to \$4 per bag. This is your best bet if you need a large quantity and aren't too particu-

lar about the appearance.

Hardwood and dyed mulches typically cost \$30 to \$36 per yard, or \$3 to \$6 per bag. To give your landscaping an extra pop of color, consider buying black, red or gold mulch.

Premium mulches, such as those made from cedar or cypress trees, can cost \$40 to \$47 per yard, or \$4 to \$7 per bag. These mulches tend to last longer and are less likely to blow

away in high winds.

Determining mulch quantity

The Clemson University Cooperative Extension says one cubic yard of mulch will cover 324 square feet of ground at a depth of 1 inch. To determine how many cubic yards you need: Take the square footage of your garden bed and multiply it by the desired mulch depth and divide it by 324.

Mulch price comparison

The following breakdown shows the price comparison for buying two yards of economy mulch at \$22 per yard, or \$2.50 per bag.

By the bag: 27 bags x \$2.50 = \$67.50

Bulk: 2 cubic yards x \$22 = \$44

Bulk + delivery: 2 x \$22 + \$50 = \$94

Additional mulch tips

■ Add 2 to 3 inches of mulch to new beds, or 1 inch to existing beds.

■ Schedule your delivery on a weekday. Mulch companies say weekend delivery slots fill up fast.

■ Confirm consistency. Deals that sound too good to be true could signal the mulch company is trying to sell you an inferior product.

■ Use a tarp. Place a tarp on the ground to alert the delivery driver where to unload your mulch. It also keeps the mulch dry and makes for easier cleanup.



Mulch looks awesome in flower beds, walking paths and gardens.
ARTISTIC LANDSCAPES/TNS

Home-cooked pet kibble as easy as click, mix, dish

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Like man, the way to a dog's heart is through its stomach.

No one knows that better than Kris Rotonda and Denise Fernandez, the couple who conceived the Doggy Cooking Network and founded online dating service YouMustLoveDogsDating.com, where pooch-loving singles can connect with potential mates.

Their Doggy Cooking Network on YouTube taps into the popularity of cooking shows to show pet owners how to dish up fresh, homemade alternatives to commercial kibble. It struck a chord as serving safe, wholesome food has become important to people putting more time, money and energy into pet care.

Some animal lovers have em-

phasized home-cooked canine cuisine following complaints of tainted food sickening and killing pets.

Worried pet owners can find easy recipes in Rotonda and Fernandez's cooking shows. In their videos, they use simple ingredients like chicken, rice and eggs to make everything from frozen yogurt bars and sweet bean rice to meatloaf birthday cake, and they incorporate food trends like organic and gluten-free snacks.

"The idea is simple. Food brings families together," Fernandez said. "Only people who are really devoted to their dogs are going to cook for them."

She and Rotonda are not professional chefs but display quick ways to please a pet's pal-

ate after testing the dishes out on their four dogs.

Viewers mix along with the couple as they joke, banter and show off their finished dishes during the four-minute cooking segments. Shows are being posted once a week on YouTube, but they hope to expand soon.

They started their one-of-a-kind show about three months ago. With the holidays coming up, at least one episode a month will spotlight ideas for pet recipes and gifts, Fernandez said.

Mary Montufar of Mountain View, California, will build on the show's recipes to make her own creations for her 11-year-old Maltese mix, Phoebe. If the Doggy Cooking Network features chicken with carrots and

peas, she will try similar alternatives, like turkey and sweet potatoes.

The fresh food helped combat Phoebe's extensive allergies. Montufar tried all kinds of store-bought food, but none of it stopped the dog's scratching and discomfort.

So she decided to give the online cooking shows a try. The ingredients are simple and cheap and the recipes are so easy that she can make a week's worth of food at a time, Montufar said. She can also get it done in the same amount of time it would take her to go shopping, she said.

Best of all, the food has cut way down on Phoebe's allergies.

"It's all fresh food, so there's nothing you would be afraid to eat yourself," Montufar said.

THIS IS A HAMMER

Take stock for spring



Whether you're still shoveling snow, or watching buds blossom, it's time to start preparing for the busy spring season.

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

With the long freeze and snowy conditions that the eastern part of the country has dealt with this winter, it may be hard to believe that spring is on its way. But in southerly parts, signs of spring are already appearing. Regardless of whether you're still shoveling snow, or watching buds blossom, it's time to start preparing for the busy spring season.

Here are a few things to add to your to-do list over the next few weeks:

■ Take stock: Check your garage or storage shed to make sure you have all the tools and supplies needed to prep the lawn and garden. Things like grass seed for treating brown or thin spots, fertilizer, and lawn tools like thatchers and rakes.

■ Prepare your lawnmower and power tools: Make sure the mower is assembled, that blades are sharp and that you have fresh fuel on hand. Check that power tools like edgers, blowers, string trimmers and hedge trimmers are in good shape.

■ Turn your compost pile: Or, if you don't have one, start

one. It won't be ready for early spring but could be usable in the summer to help along your vegetable garden.

■ Get outdoor furniture ready: Whether your patio furniture is stored or sturdy enough to sit outside all winter, check it for damage and clean off dirt, mineral scaling or other crud.

■ Check window and door screens: Replacing a torn or ratty screen is one of the easiest and most affordable DIY jobs.

■ Inspect your lawn for damage: Freezing weather, icy patches and salt-burnt edging are among the problems homeowners often find after the snow melts. You can begin patching up damaged areas even before the last hard frost.

■ Make a budget: List the supplies and tools you need, plus repairs. Also budget how much time you can dedicate to home and garden work this year.

TIP: Help salt-damaged grass and plants recover by watering them thoroughly once the weather is consistently above freezing, then re-seeding and treating with appropriate fertilizer.

Send your home tips and questions to ask@thisisahammer.com.

COMFORT FOOD

Chocolate Peanut Butter Cheesecake

By Healthy Exchanges
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Want to REALLY impress someone? Place a tempting piece of this scrumptious cheesecake in front of them, then step back and wait for the magic to unfold.

2 (8-ounce) packages fat-free cream cheese
1 (4-serving) package sugar-

free instant chocolate fudge pudding mix

2/3 cup nonfat dry milk powder

1 cup water

3/4 cup reduced calorie whipped topping

1 (6-ounce) purchased chocolate pie crust

6 tablespoons reduced-fat peanut butter

1 (2 1/2-inch) chocolate graham cracker square, made into

crumbs

1 tablespoon chopped dry roasted peanuts

1. In a large bowl, stir cream cheese with a sturdy spoon until soft. Add dry pudding mix, dry milk powder and water. Mix well using a wire whisk. Blend in 1/4 cup whipped topping. Carefully spread mixture into pie crust. Refrigerate while preparing topping.

2. In a medium bowl, stir peanut butter with a spoon until soft. Fold in remaining 1/2 cup whipped topping. Spread mixture evenly over cream-cheese filling. Evenly sprinkle chocolate graham-cracker crumbs and peanuts over top. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Makes 8 servings.

**Each serving equals: 257 calories, 9g fat, 15g protein, 29g carb., 604mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Starch/Carb., 1 1/2 Meat, 1 Fat.*

Life & Style

George R.R. Martin won't let pressure rush his writing



Kit Harington arrives at the Season 5 premier of "Game of Thrones" at the War Memorial Opera House, Monday, March 23, 2015, in San Francisco. AP

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—George R.R. Martin has been feeling the heat to finish "The Winds of Winter," the long-awaited sixth novel in his best-selling series, "A Song of Ice and Fire," but he is not letting the pressure rush his writing.

"There is more pressure every year," Martin said Monday in San Francisco at the U.S. premiere of the fifth season of "Game of Thrones," the HBO television series based on his books. "The main thing is to make the book as good as I can possibly make it."

Martin, 66, has completed five of seven planned novels: The most recent, "A Dance With Dragons," came out in 2011, the same year the Emmy-winning television adaptation first aired. With this season, the series will have exhausted almost all the material from the existing books.

"Fifty years from now no-

body is going to care how frequently the books came out," he said. "They will care if the books are as good as they can possibly be, if the books stand the test of time. That's what I struggle with as I write."

Martin and 24 cast members sat among the audience that watched the first episode of season five at San Francisco's War Memorial Opera House, a palatial building aptly suited for the television show about mythical kingdoms. It was packed with 3,000 people.

Emilia Clarke, who plays Daenerys Targaryen, said the stories that fans have been following for four seasons will start to intertwine in season five.

"The threads we've been weaving are really coming together now, and that will be quite satisfying to watch," Clarke said.

The City by the Bay is also a leading tech hub, and HBO gave "Game of Thrones" fans access to the black carpet event by stream-

ing it live on the show's Facebook page. The series' stars also took time to answer fan questions submitted via Facebook, which ranged from what the actors would name their pet dragons to what characters will die next in the blood-soaked epic fantasy.

A couple of hundred fans who didn't want to watch on their computers stood on the street holding up posters of HBO's most watched series and waving at the actors as they walked the carpet.

"Game of Thrones" is set in the war-torn continent of Westeros, a place where winter and summer can last for decades and tells the story of warring kingdoms. The show includes stunning landscapes, lots of sex, plenty of sword fights and decapitations, and fire-breathing dragons.

Season five premieres April 12 on HBO and on HBO Now, the networks' streaming service, which will launch that day on Apple TV.

Gumbel's 'Real Sports' marks 20 years

NEW YORK (AP)—Bryant Gumbel's "Real Sports" focuses on the NCAA this week during March Madness. As is typical of the HBO newsmagazine that marks its 20th year on air, the focus won't be on jump shots or bracket busting.

Scheduled reports will discuss the lack of long-term medical care for athletes injured during college sports, and the pressure placed on students to perform or lose their scholarships. A roundtable discussion to follow will feature Kirk Schulz, chairman of the NCAA board of governors.

"We wanted to do something that is not a sycophantic look at what is going on," Gumbel said Monday. "We wanted to take a critical look at the NCAA's relationship with its athletes and the extent to which it is functioning properly."

That's typical territory for "Real Sports." Gumbel was still a "Today" show anchor when the HBO program began in 1995, airing four times a year initially. It bumped up to six and now is once a month. "Real Sports" has taken a lead in coverage of concussions in sports and won awards for stories about racism at European soccer matches, baseball recruiting in the Dominican Republic and boys forced to be camel jockeys in the United Arab Emirates.

February's edition had a typical mix: a David Scott report on the dangers faced by Sherpas guiding inexperienced tourists up Mount Everest, a Soledad O'Brien story on injured ath-



In this image released by HBO, Bryant Gumbel, appears on the set of "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel." AP

letes who shift from painkillers to heroin and a Jon Frankel profile of snowboard star Amy Purdy, a double amputee.

"The mandate is pretty much the same—to tell good stories, to highlight social issues involving sports," Gumbel said. "But I think we've become better at doing it. Like anything else, you figure out how best to get to where you want to get. Our correspondents are far better."

Other broadcast outlets have followed the show's lead, like ESPN with its increased use of documentaries and Showtime's "60 Minutes Sports," said Andy Billings, sports media professor at the University of Alabama. Online sites like Deadspin or Grantland do strong investigations, but don't drive the sports media conversation the way "Real Sports" does, he said.

The January episode, with former Chicago Bears talking about the physical toll of playing in the NFL, was seen by 3.8

million people, the biggest audience the show has had in eight years.

Increased ratings come despite the oddity that "Real Sports" has no set time slot; it will premiere on a Tuesday night each month, it's just never clear which Tuesday. While HBO has raised the profile of John Oliver's weekly show by pushing out his segments online, rights clearances prevent "Real Sports" from getting the same attention.

For its anniversary year, "Real Sports" is running a comedy segment featuring Bill Maher, Oliver and others, replacing Gumbel's often attention-getting commentary that ended each episode. The commentaries were becoming difficult since he had to balance the need to make them timely while also relevant for people who watch a week later, he said.

He's come to regret eliminating the commentary and said it will return next January.

"Even my own guys on my staff, who were surprised that I did it, were quick to tell me it was a mistake," Gumbel said.

Gumbel, 66, is in the second year of a four-year contract for "Real Sports." He shuttles between homes in Florida and New York, and besides anchoring the show, does six to eight stories a year. His interviewing skills are most readily apparent when he debriefs correspondents in the studio after their stories air. When asked how long he wants to continue, he draws a comparison between a phenom pitcher and a veteran working on guile.

Jai Courtney embraces insecurities of his 'Insurgent' character

By **RICK BENTLEY**
THE FRESNO BEE

LOS ANGELES—The word "insecure" is not used lightly when it comes to acting, but it works well when talking about the traits of a character.

"Eric is a man who is incredibly insecure and I think that is cool," says Jai Courtney of his character in "The Divergent Series: Insurgent." "He has a bit of an inferiority complex, but he handles it very well."

You might recall that in the first film based on the popular young adult novel by Veronica Roth, Eric was teammates with Four (Theo James) until the members of Dauntless parted ways.

The second film picks up with Eric leading the team that is trying to track down Four and Tris (Shailene Woodley). Eric is

determined to find the pair no matter what it takes.

He ends up being the perfect match for Four, who is equally strong minded when it comes to his goals. They just happen to be on opposite sides of the fight.

"Eric deals with his insecurities quite well because he's led himself to the point where he feels he's the toughest and the strongest," Courtney says. "The books kind of show him as a guy who is kind of mean and evil, but that doesn't necessarily equate to an interesting performance or someone we can relate to."

Courtney understands the ambition aspect—but in a good way. The Aussie has been chasing an acting career since he graduated from high school. He

landed roles in the TV shows "Packed to the Rafters," "All Saints" and "Spartacus: Blood and Sand." That was followed by roles in the films "Jack Reacher," "A Good Day to Die Hard" and "Divergent."

He's getting ready to move into an even bigger role with "Terminator: Genisys" and as Boomerang in the big-screen adaptation of the DC comic book "Suicide Squad."

His experiences with fans have been positive so far.

"I think the comic book thing will be different," Courtney says. "I think the comic book crowd will be tougher and they will be the first to tell you when you've done it wrong. They will also be the first to tell you when you get it right."



Courtney

Vin Diesel on Paul Walker's delivery-room advice: 'Own it'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Vin Diesel, who named his newborn in honor of late friend and long-time co-star Paul Walker, says his participation in the child's birth was all because of some advice Walker once gave him.

"I might never have gone into a delivery room if it wasn't for Paul," Diesel told The Associ-

ated Press on Monday. Earlier, Diesel announced on the "Today" show that daughter Pauline was named after Walker, who died in 2013 at age 40 in a car crash while on a break from shooting the seventh installment



Diesel

in the "Fast and Furious" franchise.

Seven years ago, before Diesel, 47, and longtime partner Paloma Jimenez welcomed daughter Hania, 6, into the world, Walker, also a father, offered a bit of wisdom.

"Paul (told) me to go into the delivery room and own it and be present and don't shy away from it and cut the umbilical cord. I didn't even know what an umbilical cord was!" said Diesel.

Jimenez and Diesel are also parents to a son, Vincent, 4.

Sitting under a crisp white

umbrella at a "Furious 7" press event at Dodger Stadium, Diesel turned quiet and reflective while discussing Walker, who he has referred to as his brother.

"Seven years later, going into the same delivery room, I couldn't help but to have my brain go back and reflect about

the best piece of advice that anyone ever gave me," he said.

"When I was cutting the umbilical cord and looking at Paloma, I heard his advice," said Diesel. The actor added, "When it came time to write down the name," his choice was Pauline.

"Furious 7," out April 3, is dedicated to Walker.

Selfie spot for 'Mad Men' fans: new Don Draper bench in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—"Mad Men" fans can now take a selfie with Don Draper, thanks to a bench unveiled Monday featuring the fictional adman's silhouette.

Jon Hamm, the actor who plays Draper, posed for photos on the bench outside the Time & Life Building at 1271 Avenue of the Americas in midtown Manhattan. He appeared with other cast members, January Jones, Christina Hendricks, John Slattery and Elisabeth Moss, along with the show's creator, Matthew Weiner.

The bench is one of a number of attractions around New York City coinciding with the AMC series' final season, which begins April 5. The Museum of the Moving Image in Queens has a "Mad Men" exhibit with props, sets and costumes. Some restaurants are offering \$19.69 liquid lunches this week in honor of the show. And Moss, who plays Peggy on the show, has gotten rave reviews as the



Jon Hamm appears at an unveiling of a bench dedicated to the "Mad Men" series in front of the Time & Life Building on Monday, March 23, 2015 in New York.

AP

star of the Broadway revival of "The Heidi Chronicles."

The Draper bench shows a black outline of the character seated on the bench, with one arm draped along the back of the seat. Two slim strips of white illuminate the black figure: a shirt cuff peeking out from beneath a suit sleeve, and the tip of a cigarette.

The street signs at the corner of Sixth Avenue and 50th Street were changed to read "Mad Men Av" and "Don Draper Way."

The Time & Life Building is where the fictional ad agency in the show is headquartered. Although the series, which is set in the 1960s, takes place in New York, it's mostly filmed in Los Angeles on Hollywood sets. But there are numerous references in the show to real places in New York along with real events from that turbulent decade. No doubt the weather for Monday's event was a chilling reality check for the stars: It was 28 degrees and Moss was wearing open-toed shoes.

Stiller happy nobody tripped during recent 'Zoolander' stunt

NEW YORK (AP)—Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson made many "Zoolander" fans giddy when they closed the Valentino runway show during Paris Fashion Week earlier this month as their model characters from the 2001 comedy.

It was a maneuver to announce a sequel, "Zoolander 2," due out next year, which Stiller will also direct. The actors were met with cheers and whistles in person as guests hurried to catch the moment on their cellphones.

"I was a little surprised," Stiller said about the reaction while attending Monday's premiere of his movie "While We're Young." "I mean it's been 15 years since the movie came out so we really didn't know if people remembered or cared, and it was nice to know that there was a little bit of a connection there that people had."

Their commitment was admirable, as Stiller and Wilson chose to not only take some of the spotlight from a couture fashion house (with its permission, of course) but to do it during a fashion show. In Paris.

Stiller said he was "just happy we were able to keep it a surprise and nobody tripped."

"We thought it would be a fun idea as a way to announce the movie," said Stiller when asked why they chose Paris

Fashion Week to make the announcement. "We sort of had top three designers or brands that we went to and TJ Maxx and Burlington Coat Factory bowed out at the last minute so we went Valentino."

Besides "Zoolander," Stiller has had a number of roles that have been memorable and quote-worthy, including in "Meet the Parents," "Dodgeball" and "Night at the Museum."

So which movie is he most recognized for?

"Usually it's 'Waterboy,'" joked Stiller, who's not in it—it stars Adam Sandler.

"While We're Young" opens March 27.



Actors Ben Stiller, left, and Owen Wilson wear creations for Valentino's fall-winter 2015-2016 ready to wear fashion collection, presented at Paris fashion week, Paris, France, Tuesday, March 10, 2015.

AP

Children of comedian killed in US crash awarded \$10 million

WHITE PLAINS, New York (AP)—The children of comedian James McNair, who was killed in the car crash that injured Tracy Morgan, are getting a \$10 million settlement from Wal-Mart, court papers show.

The documents also show that the children, Jamel McNair, 26, and Denita McNair, 19, are putting part of the payment toward annuities that will pay them ever-increasing monthly amounts, starting at \$3,000, for the rest of their lives.

The \$10 million figure was disclosed in documents filed in Surrogate's Court in New York's Westchester County, where James McNair lived until the June 7 accident, when a Wal-Mart truck hit a limo van that was carrying him, Morgan and others home from a show in Delaware.

Morgan, a former "Saturday Night Live" and "30 Rock" star, suffered broken bones and what his lawyer, Benedict Morelli, said was a traumatic brain injury. Morelli said Friday that Morgan was "very pleased" that McNair's children were well-compensated and will be able to "lead a better life." McNair was a longtime friend and mentor to Morgan.

Morelli added that Morgan is not fully recovered but is "working very hard to get better, physically, emotionally and mentally." Morgan had hoped to attend the 40th anniversary show of "Saturday Night Live" last month,

Morelli said, but was not well enough. Morgan still hasn't seen a segment in which his "30 Rock" co-stars Tina Fey and Alec Baldwin paid tribute to him during the show, Morelli said.

"I think it's going to take him a while before he's emotionally and mentally ready to watch that," the attorney said. "He knows about it. He said to me, 'I couldn't watch it, but one day I will.'"

Morgan and two others injured in the crash also have sued Wal-Mart. The truck driver, Kevin Roper, has been charged with death by auto and other offenses but has not yet been indicted, said a spokesman for the prosecutor's office.

The McNair family lawyer, Darryl Zaslow, announced in January that Wal-Mart had settled with the children, but the amount was said to be confidential. However, he mentioned the \$10 million figure in court papers filed last month supporting his request, backed by the McNair children, for nearly \$3 million in legal fees. The \$10 million figure was first reported by dnainfo.com.

Zaslow did not immediately return a call seeking comment. Wal-Mart spokesman Randy Hargrove said the company could not discuss the terms, "but we are glad to have reached an agreement. ... We deeply regret the loss of Mr. McNair and we worked closely with his family to insure their wellbeing."

Taylor Swift, Microsoft among those buying up .porn suffixes

NEW YORK (AP)—The singer Taylor Swift, Microsoft Corp. and Harvard University are among those buying up .porn and .adult Web suffixes as a preemptive move before those domain names become available

this summer.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, or ICANN, is making Internet address suffixes beyond the usual .com or .org available for people and businesses to use.

While some are in Chinese or other languages besides English, others could include the likes of .music, .app or, of course, .porn.

To check what brands, groups and celebrities have bought their domain names, visit <http://icmregistry.com/domaincheck>.

According to the site, Microsoft has bought not only Microsoft.

porn but Office.porn and Office.adult as well.

Representatives for Tay-

lor Swift, Microsoft and Harvard could not immediately be reached for comment.



In this Feb. 15, 2015 file photo, singer Taylor Swift attends the SNL 40th Anniversary Special in New York. AP

Canadian film and TV actress Alberta Watson dies at 60

TORONTO (AP)—Canadian film and television actress Alberta Watson has died. She was 60.

Her agent, Pam Winter, said Watson died Saturday in Toronto after a long battle with cancer.

Watson is best known for her role on "24" as special agent Erin Driscoll during the Fox series' 2004-05 season. More recently, she appeared on the CW series "Nikita" as well as on its earlier version, "La Femme Nikita," on USA.

Her films include "Hackers" and "Hedwig and the Angry Inch."

TV guest roles include "Hill Street Blues," "Law & Order" and "The Equalizer."

CHP: Rocker Crosby hits jogger with car on California road

SANTA YNEZ, Calif. (AP)—Authorities say Rock and Roll Hall of Famer David Crosby hit and injured a jogger with his car in Southern California.

The California Highway Patrol said in a statement that Crosby was driving his Tesla electric car on Sunday at about 55 mph, the posted speed limit

on the road in the Santa Barbara area where he lives.

The 73-year-old Crosby was driving toward the sun with limited vision when he hit 46-year-old Jose Jimenez, who was jogging along the right side of the road.

Jimenez was hospitalized with broken bones, cuts and

bruises and is expected to survive.

Crosby stopped and cooperated with authorities. He wasn't hurt. The CHP says neither drugs nor alcohol were factors in the accident.

Crosby is in the Rock Hall of Fame as a member of the Byrds and Crosby, Stills and Nash.

Posthumous Nelson Mandela memoir to be published in 2016

LONDON (AP)—A posthumous memoir by Nelson Mandela, recounting his time as South Africa's first democratically elected president, is scheduled to be published around the world next year.

Pan Macmillan said Tuesday that it will publish the sequel to Mandela's best-selling autobiography "Long Walk to Freedom" in Britain, South Africa, India and Australasia in 2016. U.S. and Canadian rights have not yet been sold.

The publisher said the Nelson Mandela Foundation has "a substantial but incomplete personally written draft" of the book, written before the statesman died in December 2013 at

the age of 95. On the wishes of his widow, Graca Machel, it will be completed by a group of Mandela's former advisers.

Machel said Mandela began work on the book in 1998, near the end of his five-year presidential term. She said Mandela saw it as "a natural progression" from "Long Walk," which covered his early years, his political struggle against South Africa's apartheid regime and the 27 years he spent in prison.

Pan Macmillan said the as-yet-untitled book would be "candid and clear-eyed about the difficulties he faced while in office, but also about the fault lines which run through contemporary South Africa."

Editorial director Georgina Morley said it would "remind readers everywhere what he stood for—and how it is still possible for his vision and his political philosophy to change not only South Africa but the world."

A publication date was not announced.

Mandela was released from prison in 1990 and went on to win the presidency in South Africa's first all-race election in 1994. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, along with former South African President Frederik W. de Klerk, for negotiating the end of white-minority rule.

He stepped down in 1999 to concentrate on charity work.

Second Julie Andrews memoir expected in 2017

NEW YORK (AP)—Julie Andrews' next memoir will tell the backstory of "Mary Poppins," "The Sound of Music" and other beloved works during her years as one of the world's most popular entertainers.

Hachette Books announced Monday that the Oscar-winning actress is working on a follow-up to the 2008 release "Home," which covers her childhood and early years in show business. The next book, currently untitled, begins in the 1960s and takes readers through her next three decades, including her many hit films and her marriage to director Blake Edwards.

The new book is scheduled for September 2017. Andrews recently helped celebrate the 50th anniversary of "The Sound of Music," one of the most popular movies of all time.



In this Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015 file photo, Julie Andrews presents the award for best original score at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. AP

Daughter-in-law who flashes needs message to cover up

DEAR ABBY: My fiancé, "Jerry," has a daughter-in-law who flashes both of us intimate parts of her body. At a recent gathering, she went down to the floor 2 feet away from where Jerry was sitting and gave us both a full view up her dress. Abby, she did it deliberately!

I thought the time one of her breasts popped out of her blouse was a "wardrobe malfunction." I no longer feel that way.

Jerry is a pushover. He doesn't say anything; he just runs away from it. I'm afraid things will only get worse. She must be trying to run me off. I can't think of any other reason for her behavior.

We have decided to not go on vacation with them this year because of this. Jerry is doing what he can for us to avoid being around her, but he has his 1-year-old granddaughter he adores to consider. What do you think is going on?

COVERING MY EYES IN TEXAS

DEAR COVERING: I think the daughter-in-law either has no sense of modesty or she's an exhibitionist who enjoys shocking people. Because it bothers you and embarrasses your fiancé, he should tell his son and explain how it makes the both of you feel. If the son delivers the message to his wife, it shouldn't cause a family rift.

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago, I broke up with a guy who was

emotionally and sexually abusive. We had been seeing each other for eight months. We weren't living together, but I still was scared to break up with him because of what he might do to me. He would often call me bad names if I disagreed with what he wanted to do, and have angry outbursts during which he would throw things.

I have looked up how to safely exit an abusive relationship, but everything I find deals with what to do if you are living with the abuser. They don't teach us in high school how to safely drop an abuser; they just tell us to drop him. How do you safely break up with an abuser when moving to the other side of the country is impractical?

RECOVERING IN THE USA

DEAR RECOVERING: Here is what I recommend: If you have mutual friends, tell them why you ended the relationship with him. In addition, stop going places where you know he hangs out.

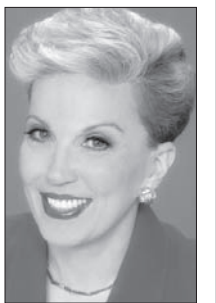
If he continues to call you, tell him to stop and hang up. Then screen your calls. If he emails, delete his messages without looking at them. However, if he follows or continues to pursue you, make a police report.

DEAR ABBY: Last year my unmarried 30ish niece became a mother. Never once at family gatherings has there been any men-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



tion of a father.

I am more than a little bit curious. A one-night stand? A fertility clinic? A do-it-yourself turkey-baster job? Would I be wrong to bring up the subject?

CURIOUS UNCLE IN OREGON

DEAR UNCLE: Yes, you would. I can 100 percent guarantee that a male was involved at some point in the conception of that child. And if the father's identity was any of your business, you would already know the answer to that question.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



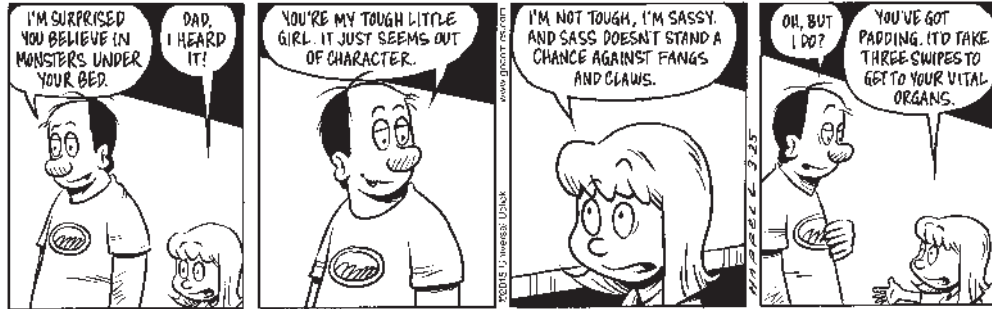
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



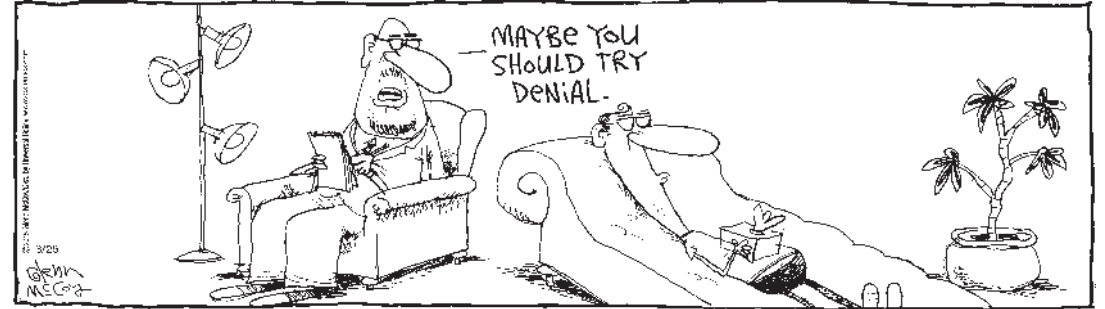
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Band in Boston?

5 Derek and Diddle

8 Always

12 Couple in a gossip column

13 Trench

14 Start over

15 Horrible state

17 Mined-over matter

18 Battled

19 Lengthy list

21 Perch

22 Idle or Clapton

23 Wager

26 Church seat

28 Alkali neutralizers

31 Lone Star State sch.

33 Siesta

35 On

36 Craze

38 Wander about

40 Verily

41 Performs

DOWN

43 Baby's seat, maybe

45 Record sleeve

47 "20 Questions" category

51 Seed coat

52 Nerve

54 Teensy amount

55 Part of TGIF

56 Smell

57 Coves

58 \$5 bill

59 Cellphone display

2 "Beetle Bailey" dog

3 Andean land

4 Urban woes

5 "Peter Grimes" composer

6 Chic no more

7 Fashion

8 Blue material?

9 Accuracy

10 Paradise

11 Optimistic

16 Chocolate

17 Playwright

20 Playwright

23 Vagrant

24 Greek vowel

25 Stick-to-itiveness

27 Humorist

29 Buck's mate

30 Hot tub

32 Big Mac

34 Cham-pion for a cause

37 Noshed

39 Carvey or Delany

42 Employees

44 Embroidery loop

45 Door-frame part

46 Met melody

48 Certain skirt

49 Fermi's concern

50 Muse's strings

53 Spoon-bender

Geller

Solution time: 23 mins.

B	E	T	H	S	H	S	H	E	D
A	R	I	A	L	E	A	L	U	T
L	I	P	S	T	C	K	A	S	U
G	N	S	C	R	K	A	P	H	I
S	O	P	H	S	B	L	O	T	T
A	R	E	A	S	U	E	I	O	W
M	U	P	P	S	S	C	R	F	W
S	M	O	T	E	R	D	G	A	S
L	O	D	I	D	I	P	S	T	I
F	P	I	C	A	P	F	A	R	N
W	E	E	K	Y	E	S	B	L	E

Yesterday's answer 3-25

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Marcia Cross, 53; Sarah Jessica Parker, 50; Elton John, 68; Aretha Franklin, 73.

Happy Birthday: Explore new interests, but don't be fooled into thinking you can bring in extra cash by someone trying to get you to make an investment. Caution is your best friend this year and can help you avoid a change that will weigh you down mentally, emotionally and financially. Know your limitations and move forward realistically. Your numbers are 4, 9, 16, 22, 25, 34, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make plans to run errands and get little jobs out of the way. Your friendly demeanor will help you draw positive attention and make new friends. Take part in whatever activities you enjoy, and an opportunity you least expect will unfold. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Check out what credentials are required to fulfill a professional dream. Don't let the work involved scare you. Set your plans in motion and see where they lead. The only regret you'll have is not making the effort, so get moving. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be emotional and sensitive to someone's comments. Keeping your distance and refusing to retaliate will help you bypass an uncomfortable situation. Turn your focus to helping a cause you believe in, and you'll boost your morale. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do what's expected of you. You will be blamed for something you didn't do if you get involved in other people's business. Don't get an-

gry or act impulsively when your best response is to take care of your own responsibilities. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make personal changes and express your thoughts to people who have something to contribute. Don't overreact if someone opposes you. Everyone is entitled to an opinion. Focus on those who are already on your team. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let obstacles deter you. If you plan your actions carefully, you will out-manuever anything that gets in your way. Don't make promises to avoid an uncomfortable emotional situation. You are best to do your own thing and learn from experience. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Form partnerships with the creative people who share your vision. A personal change will help you recognize what you want and whom you want to spend more time with. Altering the way you live will enhance your life. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put some thought into your investments. Find ways to cut corners or get rid of unnecessary expenses. Downsizing or altering your lifestyle will help you get your life back in perspective. Set new priorities. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Face emotional issues head-on and make whatever adjustments are necessary to move forward in a positive manner. Ignoring the inevitable will only prolong the agony of a situation that needs to be dealt with now. Follow your heart. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can get ahead if you take a different path. You are best to avoid anyone who is unpredictable or looking for a free ride. Stick close to home and work on developing your game plan for the future. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will know what you want and how to go about getting it. Don't sit back waiting for someone else to make the first move. Be brave and get the ball rolling. Once you begin, the rest will be easy to achieve. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone older or more experienced will give you a hard time. Don't back down or show emotion. Instead, use your creative imagination to outsmart anyone who tries to belittle or criticize you. Act with precision and confidence. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, intelligent and expressive. You are outgoing and proud.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	8	1				7	5		
5			6		7			1	
			8					2	
			1					6	
			4					9	
		3					2		
	4				1				
1				6					
8	7	9	5		2	3	6	4	

Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	8	7	6	3	4	2	1	9
4	2	6	8	1	9	7	3	5
3	1	9	7	2	5	4	6	8
2	7	5	4	8	6	3	9	1
9	6	1	3	7	2	8	5	4
8	3	4	9	5	1	6	2	7
1	5	3	2	4	8	9	7	6
7	9	8	5	6	3	1	4	2
6	4	2	1	9	7	5	8	3

Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SPINACH MAKES YOU STRONG

Solution: 7 letters

A	P	U	R	E	B	I	F	R	M	U	I	D	O	S
P	M	L	K	O	O	C	I	W	A	T	E	R	W	
L	E	A	H	E	A	L	T	H	G	E	H	E	N	
A	A	N	R	L	Y	S	T	N	E	I	R	T	U	N
N	L	O	C	A	D	E	E	T	U	A	S	O	S	E
T	P	I	F	D	N	S	P	D	A	E	O	W	Z	
S	U	T	L	A	S	T	R	O	I	W	T	M	A	O
M	R	I	S	L	E	E	H	P	P	B	A	S	R	
Y	E	R	E	A	S	L	C	A	S	E	L	S	A	F
O	E	T	P	S	T	E	A	C	C	Z	O	E	H	P
V	E	U	I	S	O	M	N	K	R	E	F	V	S	N
A	O	N	C	I	R	O	N	A	D	E	A	A	E	I
S	G	N	E	T	A	R	E	G	I	R	F	E	R	A
C	I	L	R	A	G	S	D	E	E	F	R	L	F	L
Z	L	O	O	S	E	M	I	D	T	G	O	O	D	P

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3/25
Amaranthaceae, Calcium, Canned, Cook, Diet, Dips, Dressing, Edible, Fiber, Folate, Freeze, Fresh, Frozen, Fry, Garlic, Good, Green, Grow, Healthy, Iron, Leaf, Leaves, Loose, Meal, Nutrients, Nutritional, Omelets, Packaged, Pasta, Plain, Plants, Popeye, Purée, Raw, Recipes, Refrigerate, Salad, Salt, Sautéed, Savory, Sear, Semi, Smooth, Sodium, Soup, Steam, Stew, Storage, Wash, Water, Zinc
Yesterday's Answer: Rooftops
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STUMPED?

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Top-ranked Kentucky's toughest foe might be Kentucky



LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)—Good teams have tried various ways to beat

Kentucky. The game plans have included getting physical with them, trying to force the unbeaten Wildcats to take jump shots, double-teaming post players, playing up-tempo so Kentucky can't set its defense, pressing them.

These tactics and others have worked to some extent in box scores, just not on the scoreboard.

No matter who Kentucky plays or how well they play, the consensus seems to be if the Wildcats play to their potential, they won't lose.

That makes Kentucky's toughest opponent, well, Kentucky.

Fifth-seeded West Virginia might be Kentucky's stiffest challenge so far, with the Mountaineers expected to try and use their defensive pressure and physicality to derail the Wildcats (36-0) in Thursday night's NCAA Tournament regional semifinal in Cleveland.

One of the burning questions in college basketball this season is how to beat Kentucky.

The answer seems to rest with the Wildcats. For Kentucky to lose with its length, depth and experience, it feels like each player in John Calipari's nine-deep rotation needs to have an off night.

It's possible, just seems unlikely it'll happen in the same game.

"The good news is there's enough guys that, if two or three aren't playing well, we can still survive," the Kentucky coach said after watching his team shoot just 37 percent and get out-rebounded 45-38 by Cincinnati, and still advance to the Sweet 16 with a 64-51 win on Saturday.

Calipari isn't just spewing coach speak, the stats back up his observation.

Eight of the nine players in the rotation are averaging between 5.8 and 11.1 points per game. Eight different players have been Kentucky's leading scorer this season.

Even when a team has some in-game success against Kentucky, Calipari has enough talent to mix and match lineups until he finds a combination that works. Having "reinforcements," as the coach calls them, has also succeeded in wearing down opponents.

"Every team always plays us with different strategies," 6-11 freshman Karl-Anthony Towns said. "Everyone has different stuff they do. We don't get much time to scout and we just have to get into the groove while the game is going on. You just feel them out. That's how it always is."

Cincinnati tried to take the physical route, but the Wildcats' height and length makes beating them up a difficult proposition.

The approach did help the Bearcats beat the Wildcats on the offensive glass. Florida also played Kentucky tough in two regular-season meetings, forcing the Wildcats to fight through several bodies on the way to the basket. The teams exposed an area of vulnerability for the Wildcats—defensive rebounding. But with five frontcourt players 6-foot-9 or taller on the roster, Kentucky's size allows them to overcome the deficiency.

Against Cincinnati the Wildcats had nine blocks including six in the second half, several 50-50 situations and a lot of contested shots as the Bearcats shot 32 percent and committed 14 turnovers.

Teams have also tried to show they're not intimidated with a lot of chatter when the game starts, something very noticeable against Cincinnati and Arkansas.

"A lot of teams want to do that," said junior 7-footer Willie Cauley-Stein, whose two-handed slam dunk over Cincinnati's Quadri Moore late in the first half was the turning point for Kentucky. "But with our guys and the way we play and the way we are all for each other, there is kind of a barrier around us. You just kind of laugh at it. I would do the same thing. . I mean, you've



AP
Kentucky forward Willie Cauley-Stein (15) dunks the ball as Auburn forward Alex Thompson (20) and Auburn guard Devin Waddell look on during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game in the semifinal round of the Southeastern Conference tournament, Saturday, March 14, 2015, in Nashville, Tenn.

got to do something. You got to try something."

The Wildcats have enough guard play to break through full-court presses.

Kentucky point guards Andrew Harrison and Tyler Ulis combined for 12 assists and

just two turnovers in the championship game of the Southeastern Conference Tournament. West Virginia (25-9) likes to use its disruptive defense to create turnovers. The Mountaineers succeeded in forcing 23 turnovers with 15

steals in Sunday night's 69-59 win over Maryland.

Kentucky also has used its athleticism and size to turn the table on opponents.

"If you turn the ball over against them, they are great at finishing because they've got

eight or nine guys that are pro prospects," Cincinnati associate head coach Larry Davis said, "and they're going to go finish it on you if you turn it over and get it in open court."

None of that fazes Mountaineers coach Bob Huggins, who acknowledged the tall challenge but offered no hints of how his team will try to meet it.

"I can tell you that we're not going to be scared," said Huggins, who's 8-2 against Calipari.

Not many teams have been "scared" of Kentucky—though all have been over-matched in the end.

"You're going to have to be the better team for 40 minutes," Hampton coach Edward Joyner Jr. said after his team's 79-56 opening-round loss to Kentucky. "You don't have to go in being the best team, you have to be the best team for that night. But it's going to take a great 40 minutes to beat those guys."

Translation: If anyone beats Kentucky, they'll need a major assist from the Wildcats.

Proposal to owners: Order unstable player off field



PHOENIX (AP)—Millions of viewers and thousands of fans saw a wobbly Julian Edelman remain in the Super Bowl.

After looking at video of that situation and several similar ones, the NFL's powerful competition committee is proposing a change.

NFL owners are considering a proposal to stop games when a medical adviser sees a player displaying obvious signs of disorientation.

The suggestion was a late addition by the committee at the owners' meetings that began Monday. It would allow a medical spotter upstairs to communicate with the officiating crew when a player appears unstable.

The game would be halted to remove the player, who then would undergo sideline examination at the very least.

"We got the (medical) spotters, they've got a really good vantage point, they've got technology in their booth, they're communicating pretty well with our trainers and doctors and we've got a pretty good

rhythm going there," Rich McKay, co-chairman of the committee and president of the Atlanta Falcons, said.

"Why would we miss a play where a player should have come out of the game?"

The player's team would be allowed to substitute for him, and the opposite team also would be given a chance to change personnel.

That is one of two dozen proposals and rules changes being considered by the owners in a busy agenda.

Other suggested changes include using instant replay for reviewing all penalties called by game officials, yes, pass interference and holding calls, too; all personal fouls; penalties against defenseless players; any foul that results in an automatic first down; and clock issues.

New England even proposed that everything except scoring plays or turnovers be challengeable, and Washington suggested increasing a coach's number of challenges from two to three, regardless of whether he is successful on an early challenge.

Owners will vote on some of the proposals in the next two

days, with several likely being tabled until the next major meetings in May.

Rams coach Jeff Fisher explained why the competition committee does not endorse using replay for penalties.

"The committee's position for years has been to oppose involving fouls in replay for a lot of different reasons," he said. "We've looked at a lot of tape this offseason, we looked at the fouls particularly relating to hits on defenseless players. We had 27 of them this year, we looked at them as a group. We could not agree on a number of them."

"That's just the nature of the standard in replay."

Fisher added that the league's officiating department will review fouls on a Monday and can take "20-30 minutes, maybe an hour, to determine whether it was in fact a foul. So you can see the issues that we're going to have if we involve those things in replay."

One alteration not coming is to change the catch-no catch parameters. That has been a particularly hot topic since the NFC playoff game in which Cowboys receiver

Dez Bryant had a catch near the Green Bay goal line late in the fourth quarter reversed to an incompleteness.

Vice president of officiating Dean Blandino explained that the language within the rule is being tweaked for clarification. But the process required for a catch is not being changed.

"For years the requirements for a catch—the way it was communicated in the rule book—is control, both feet (in bounds) and then, after that, the receiver had to have the ball long enough to perform an act common to the game," Blandino said. "That was defined as being able to pitch it, pass it, clearly advance the ball as a runner."

That created confusion, which Blandino believes will be eliminated by changing the wording.

"So in order to complete a catch, the receiver has to have control, both feet on the ground and he has to have it after that long enough to clearly establish himself as a runner," he said.

Also Monday:

■ The league eliminated local TV blackouts of games for next season.

There were no blackouts last season, because the minimum number of tickets, by NFL sellout standards, was sold for every game, and the league had only two blackouts in 2013.

Still, the experiment is a huge step for the NFL, whose blackout policy dates back decades. Some teams—Tampa, Miami, Jacksonville, Oakland, St. Louis and San Diego—have struggled to avoid blackouts, and the league is taking a bit of a gamble for 2015.

■ The Oct. 25 game in London between Buffalo and Jacksonville will be streamed live internationally. The experiment, which will start at 9:30 a.m. ET, means the game won't be shown on television outside of the local teams' markets.

■ Foreign sites are being considered for the Pro Bowl.

Next year's game will be played in Honolulu. Beyond that, just about anywhere seems to be in play, including Brazil.

"For 2017 and beyond, we are studying the future of the Pro Bowl."

"Brazil, an area with a growing number of NFL fans, as a possible host is one of the ideas that seems to hold a lot of appeal for additional analysis," NFL spokesman Michael Signora said.

Warriors smother Wizards in 3rd quarter for 107-76 win



OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Closing in on the NBA's top playoff seed, the Golden State Warriors have been at their best.

Stephen Curry scored 24 points, and the Warriors used a smothering defensive effort in the third quarter to pound the Washington Wizards 107-76 on Monday night.

"I think the last few games have been a real progression for us in terms of just being very methodical and professional," coach Steve Kerr said.

The Warriors held the Wizards without a field goal for nearly 11 minutes after half-time, with Washington missing its first 15 shots. Golden State outscored the Wizards 29-8 in the quarter to take a 24-point lead.

"The shots started to fall as we got momentum and confidence in the third quarter and got our crowd into it. It was fun," Curry said.

The MVP candidate added six assists and five rebounds as the NBA-leading Warriors (57-13) moved closer to securing home-court advantage throughout the playoffs. Golden State has a huge lead over Memphis (50-21) in the Western Conference and is pulling away from East-leading Atlanta (53-17) as well.

That could be a scary prospect for the NBA.

The Warriors became the first team in league history to complete two perfect six-game homestands in the same season. They are an NBA-best 34-2 at home, where sellout crowds are rocking road teams nightly.

Bradley Beal scored 12 points, and John Wall finished with 11 points, five assists and five rebounds for the Wizards, who have lost three straight. Washington, which shot 33.3 percent, was held to a season



AP
Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) celebrates after scoring against the Washington Wizards during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oakland, Calif., Monday, March 23, 2015.

low in points.

"It was like we were playing in mud, walking up and down," Wizards coach Randy Wittman said.

Washington was down just three at the half before falling apart. Then again, so have a lot of teams at Oracle Arena.

As the Wizards (40-31) continued to miss shots in the third quarter, the Warriors were able to get out in transition. Curry connected on three 3s in the quarter to cap Golden State's surge.

Kevin Seraphin, who had 12 points and eight rebounds, hit

a hook shot with 1:02 to play in the period for Washington's first—and only—field goal. The Wizards went 6 for 10 on free throws in the quarter.

It was the second time in a month the Warriors held an opponent to one made basket in a quarter. Toronto shot 1 for 19 in the first quarter of Golden State's 113-89 win Feb. 27.

"Their offense opened up and our lack of offense really discouraged our defense," said Wizards forward Paul Pierce, who had seven points. "And it can't be like that."

Celtics 110, Nets 91

In Boston, Evan Turner had 19 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds as the Celtics snapped a three-game losing streak that had dropped them out of playoff position.

Avery Bradley scored 20 points to lead the Celtics, who moved a half-game ahead of Charlotte for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. The Hornets lost 98-86 at Chicago.

Tyler Zeller and Kelly Olynyk each had 18 points for Boston, which bounced back from a 105-97 overtime loss

to Detroit at home on Sunday. Coach Brad Stevens said he felt his players tightened up in that game, but they had a mostly stress-free second half Monday after quickly pulling away in the third quarter.

Brook Lopez scored 31 points for the Nets, who had won two in a row to give themselves renewed playoff hopes. But they endured bad nights all over the roster, from Joe Johnson (3 for 11) to Jarrett Jack (1 for 9) to Alan Anderson (2 for 9).

Rockets 110, Pacers 100

In Indianapolis, James Harden scored 19 of his 44 points in the fourth quarter as the Rockets handed the Pacers their sixth straight loss.

Josh Smith added 18 points for the Rockets (47-23), who have won four of five.

Indiana's sinking playoff hopes took another big hit despite 23 points from C.J. Watson. George Hill had 20 points for the Pacers (30-40).

Harden, one of the favorites for the NBA MVP award, was 10 of 21 from the field and 21 for 22 from the free-throw line. He also had seven assists and four rebounds.

Bulls 98, Hornets 86

In Chicago, Nikola Mirotic scored 14 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter as the Bulls clinched a playoff spot.

Pau Gasol had 27 points and 12 rebounds as Chicago moved into a tie with Toronto for third place in the Eastern Conference. Jimmy Butler added 19

points in his return to the lineup after missing 11 games with a sprained left elbow.

The Bulls played without center Joakim Noah, who was scratched because of general soreness, but managed to bounce back from an ugly 107-91 loss at Detroit on Saturday.

Kemba Walker had 29 points and Mo Williams scored 15 for the Hornets, who were without Cody Zeller (right shoulder) and shot just 34.6 percent from the field.

Charlotte has lost four of five to fall out of the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. The Hornets are a half-game back of Boston, which beat Brooklyn 110-91 on Monday night.

Grizzlies 103, Knicks 82

In New York, Zach Randolph scored 23 points, Marc Gasol had 21 as Memphis Grizzlies secured a playoff spot with the road win.

The Grizzlies (50-21) shot 52 percent from the field in their third consecutive victory. Vince Carter added 14 points, Jeff Green scored 12 and Kosta Koufos had 10.

New York (14-57) has dropped four in a row and 11 of 13. Langston Galloway scored 19 points, Andrea Bargnani had 18 and reserve Jason Smith finished with 16.

The Knicks grabbed their first lead of the game on Galloway's 3-pointer with 10:31 left in the third, but the Grizzlies closed the period with an 18-5 run. Randolph's driving layup gave Memphis a 74-61 lead heading into the fourth period.

Timberwolves 106, Jazz 104

In Salt Lake City, rookie guard Zach LaVine scored 27 points, including two 3-pointers to force overtime, as Minnesota rallied past Utah.

LaVine's clutch shots in the fourth quarter set up a 6-1 Minnesota run to start overtime that the Jazz couldn't overcome.

The Timberwolves won for only the third time this month.

The game featured some of the NBA's top young stars. No. 1 overall draft pick Andrew Wiggins scored 22 points and fellow rookie Sean Kilpatrick added 13 off the bench for Minnesota. Chase Budinger had 15 points, including an overtime 3 that gave the Timberwolves a 102-97 lead.

Second-year center Rudy Gobert had 18 points, 17 rebounds and six blocks for the Jazz. Rookie forward Joe Ingles scored a career-high 18, and Derrick Favors added 19 points and 12 boards.

Hall of Famers Molitor, Sandberg manage against each other

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP)—Paul Molitor and Ryne Sandberg crossed paths a lot over the years—in spring training, at All-Star Games, up in Cooperstown.

When they met in front of the mound Monday to simultaneously toss out ceremonial first pitches, the longtime pals made history.

It was believed to be the first time already elected Hall of Famers had managed against each other in a big league game. Sandberg and the Philadelphia Phillies won this matchup, beating Molitor and the Minnesota Twins 3-0.

"The fact that it's never happened before is kind of an interesting little piece of trivia, but for me, it's more about managing against a friend," Molitor had said, sitting next to Sandberg in the dugout.

This Phillies and Twins do

not play in the regular season. So for 2 1/2 hours at Bright House Field, the former stars enjoyed the moment—Molitor perched on the top step of the bench, Sandberg sitting on a chair outside the dugout, near another fellow Hall of Famer, Phillies guest instructor Mike Schmidt.

Molitor and Sandberg exchanged lineup cards at home plate, then the first pitch of the game was thrown out of play. Both managers signed the ball, and Hall of Fame President Jeff Idelson collected the souvenir in person, ready to take it back to Cooperstown, New York.

Molitor and Sandberg made eye contact early.

"I looked over at him at the start. We kind of kept it ongoing throughout the game," Mo-

litor said.

Especially when it came time for Molitor to practice his double switches, something he won't do much in the American League. Or in this case, a quadruple switch.

In the fifth inning, Molitor changed pitchers and shifted three other fielders. He'd joked with Sandberg about giving the strategy a whirl, and on the way out of the dugout called over to him:

"Here we go."

"I just checked him out for the double switch. We talked about that a little bit," Sandberg said.

"We talked about the double switch at home plate. That was one thing he was thinking about doing. He told the umpire he was going to practice and go up to them first. And



Daniel keeps streak, solo lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Daniel avoided the upset axe of Ezekiel after pulling off a 71-69 win in the first game in the 4th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Andrew Paulino and Alain Nunez saved the day for Daniel, which retained its flawless record in five games and took the solo lead in the eight-team league after the close victory against Ezekiel (2-3). Paulino picked the pocket of Ezekiel's Mike Surima after the inbound play from the backcourt and fed Nunez for the go-ahead basket at the buzzer. Daniel stole the victory despite trailing by 4 points going into the last minute of the match.

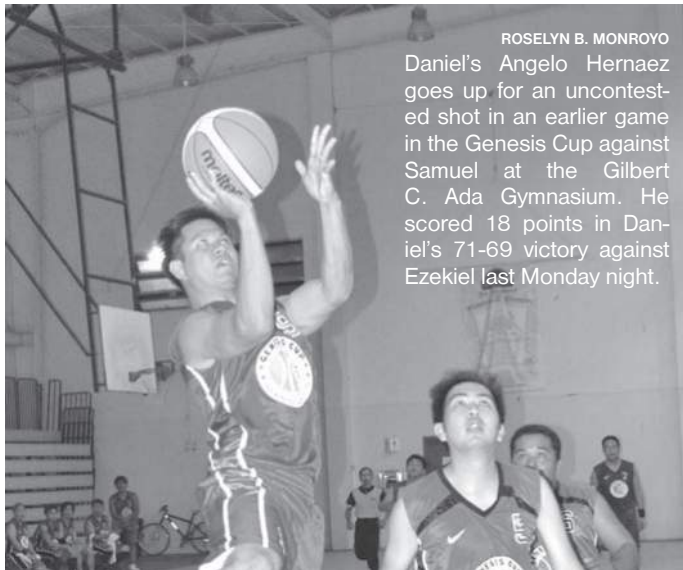
Paulino and Nunez combined for 21 points in Daniel's fifth win with the latter drilling

7 of them in the second half to back up Angelo Hernaez, who sizzled for 16 and made up for his 2-point performance in the first frame. Reli Del Rio and Dindo Pablo added 9 and 5, respectively, in the second half to finish in twin digits with 13 apiece.

Paulino had 8 of his 12 in the first half to pace Daniel and kept the team in the match, 30-31. Surima led Ezekiel in the first 20 minutes of play, knocking in 10, while Vhoi Francia contributed 9 before slowing down in the second, tallying only 2 markers.

Surima kept going in the second half and Ezekiel had the chance to go for the last shot and the victory under the 10-second mark of the match. However, Paulino made the crucial steal, while Nunez completed the important play, faking off his defenders before going up for the game-winning shot.

Meanwhile, Caleb handed Isaiah his first loss this season



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Daniel's Angelo Hernaez goes up for an uncontested shot in an earlier game in the Genesis Cup against Samuel at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. He scored 18 points in Daniel's 71-69 victory against Ezekiel last Monday night.

Talavera, Camacho top March roll-offs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Robert Talavera bagged his first monthly crown this season after ruling the Saipan Bowling Association's Budweiser King of the Lanes Tournament for March, while Diana Camacho notched her second tiara.



Talavera, who placed in the Top 3 in the first two tournaments of the year behind January and February winner Raymond Angeles, showed up in the final day of the March roll-offs last Monday and registered a field-best 797 pinfalls.

The veteran bowler had a sluggish start knocking down

only 155 pins, but finished strong, recording 214, 191, and 237 pinfalls to average about 200 (199.25). Talavera foiled Raymond Angeles' bid for a third straight victory, as the former's Day 2 total of 763 pinfalls (196, 176, 188, and 203) was only good for third place behind Talavera and Day 1 leader Raul Dumapit.

Dumapit took the early lead in the two-day competition after logging 770 pinfalls (201, 191, 176, and 202) last Saturday. Angeles also joined the opening day of the monthly tournament and was in second place with his 720 (170, 193, 175, and 192). Bowlers are allowed to

compete on both days, but only the higher score is counted.

Eighteen others joined the March roll-offs with reigning King of the Lanes Simon Manacop (752) and Lito Teodoro (732) placing in the Top 5. Completing the list were Jorge Soledad (708), Ador Dimaano (687), Tony Verdager (686), Tito Corpuz (671), Jae Yong Kim (664), Raphael Zapanta (663), Paul Pangelinan (649), Percy Omechelang (648), Ronald Batac (636), Ramir De Leon (625), Jerry Kaneshi (621), Edward Baluyan (586), Yong Woon Lee (559), Tony Yarobwemal (525), Ruselle Zapanta (490), and Fred Gonzales (414).

In the Queen of the Lanes, Diana Camacho bested 12

other keglers to make it two in a row.

The February champion played only in Day 1 and her 738 (178, 153, 237, and 170) was unbeaten in Day 2 of the monthly roll-offs, as eventual third place finisher Kathy Mersai earned only 691 pinfalls last Monday. Camacho was the lone bowler to hit 700-plus pinfalls, as runner-up Yho Villavicencio recorded only 697 in the opening day.

Carrie Camacho (650), Gloria Omechelang (641), Tess Fabie (619), Linda Yarobwemal (603), Lala Taitano (601), Ron Cal (600), Myrna Santos (598), Gigi Zapanta (595), Elena Soll (579), and Janice Camacho (560) rounded out the field.

JERICHO

From Page 28

He played for nine minutes in ROS' 102-98 win over Blackwater last Friday and he finished with 4 points on a 1-of-3 shooting from the floor, two free throws, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, and 1 steal.

Cruz, in the Painters' 119-99 crushing of boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao's Kia Carnival last Sunday, also scored 4 points on a 2-for-5 field goal shooting with 3 rebounds and 2 turnovers in nine minutes on the floor.

"I feel really tired playing for close to 10 minutes in both

games. I'm still feeling my way again, getting my rhythm in the game. I don't want to force myself since I just came from injury," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

"I'm getting better now and I'm continuously doing therapy. I'm still trying to get my timing. I know I will play better in the

next few games," he added.

The Painters' victories over Blackwater and Kia were part of a three-game winning streak, that included an 82-79 decision over Barangay Ginebra, after suffering a 129-114 crushing from San Miguel Beer on March 13.

He said that he could have

Friday

Caleb 74 — Borromeo 21, Gatdula 20, Castro 10, Cabanas 8, Morales 6, Bacani 4, Ocanada 2, Gozon 2.

Isaiah 65 — Estanislao 15, Ibanez 12, Brillo 10, Cortez 8, Fatialofa 6, Arroyo 4, Vergara 4, Puno 4, Dalusung 2, De Leon 2.

Scoring by halves: 43-29, 74-65.

Monday

Daniel 71 — Hernaez 18, Del Rio 13, Pablo 13, Paulino 12, Nunez 9, Robles 4, Del Carmen 2.

Ezekiel 69 — Surima 28, Irog 12, Francia 11, Eubanks 10, Alcantara 8, Rebong 4, Conti 4.

Scoring by halves: 30-31, 71-69.

Brewers edge Jets to end season

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Byron Kaipat and Manny Sablan drove in three runs apiece to lead

the GSM Brewers to an 11-7 win over a hard-fighting Jets side in the 2015 Saipan Baseball League on Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The reigning titlists closed out their season with an 8-2 record and now wait for the result of tonight's Falcons-Saipan Stevedore Yankees game to determine the pennant champion.

A Falcons win would force a two-way tie for the top spot with the Brewers where they will play a one-game playoff for the pennant title. A loss by the Falcons would drop them to second where they will face the Brewers in the playoffs.

The Jets ended their campaign with a 2-8 slate, highlighted by a 10-9 win over former leader Yankees last week. The Froilan Camachomanaged squad also scored a 6-5 decision over the North Starz on March 6.

Kaipat only went 1-for-3 and had a two-RBI double in the bottom of the first allowed Jun Rabauliman and Jesse Brel to cross home plate to

tie the count at 2-2. He had a sacrifice fly in the seventh to bring in Nokki Saralu.

Sablan, on the other hand, had a two-RBI single in the second and an RBI single in the fourth to finish 2-for-4 for the game with one run scored.

Saralu, the top candidate for the batting crown, had a 1-for-4 performance at the plate but scored three runs and had an RBI triple in the fourth. Jesse Brel also went 1-for-4 but had two RBIs and two runs.

Lenny Sablan pitched for 3.2 innings allowing five runs, two earned, on seven hits with two walks and a strikeout. Lancaster Secharmidal gave up two hits in 3.1 shutout innings in relief where he fanned six and walked one batter.

Pitching leader Vince Cepeda threw for two innings to close out for the Brewers. He was tagged with two runs, both unearned, on two hits while retiring two batters with no walks.

Terson Eina tossed for three hitless innings for the Jets surrendering three runs, one earned, with eight strikeouts and five walks.

L.J. Sebaklim pitched five innings in the start and the Brewers peppered him with 10 hits that resulted in eight runs, all earned. He struck out three batters and walked three more.

KANOA

From Page 28

plex Field for the boys U15 games, Tan Holdings-1 kept the top spot after whipping Paire last Friday.

Six different players hit the board for Tan Holdings-1, which improved its record to 6-0-0. Emmanuel Aniana logged a pair of goals, while Rico Reyes, Jonathan Capayas, Anthony Fruit, Mareko Tekopua, and Mark Esalan chipped in one each. Tan Holdings' eighth goal came off an own goal.

MP United 10, Kanoa 0

MP United duplicated Tan Holdings-1's lopsided win after routing Kanoa in the second

match last Friday.

Oliver Lee and Christopher Aninzon stood out in the easy victory after making three goals apiece. Edwin Kim contributed two, while Joshua Abragan added one, and MP United got its first goal in the game off an error from Kanoa's Kirt Andon.

MP United now has a 5-0-1 mark to keep Tan Holdings-1 within striking distance.

Matansa 3, Tan Holdings-2 0

Matansa registered the third shutout win of the weekend after dominating Tan Holdings-2 last Saturday.

Matansa logged all its three goals in the first half with Iverson Santos scoring first in the

sixth minute and John Joseph Bucayo and Joshua De Leon tallying the last two in the 27th and 39th minute, respectively.

BOYS U18 Tan Holdings 14, Paire 1

Tan Holdings also secured a one-sided victory against Paire in the boys U18 division match at the Hopwood pitch last Saturday.

Sean Perez and Se Young Kim collected four goals each to lead Tan Holdings' demolition of Paire. Joel Fruit and Junsik Kim nailed two goals apiece, while Yoshi Mafnas and Cosmos Kim had one each for Tan Holdings, which remained unbeaten in four games.

Joshua Choi scored the only

goal for Paire.

MP United 3, Matansa 1

MP United got its third win in four games after outclassing Matansa at the Oleai pitch last Saturday.

Scott Kim had a brace for MP United, lighting up the board in the 41st and 48th minute, while Daniel Lim posted the other goal for the second-running team. Ryu Tanzawa was the lone scorer for Matansa, which fell to a 1-3 mark.

CO-ED U12 MP United 2, Tan Holdings 1

MP United also triumphed in one of the two co-ed U12 division matches last Saturday at the Hopwood pitch after slip-

made his return earlier, against San Miguel, but the team's medical staff prevented him from suiting up in order to not to reinjure his foot.

Cruz returned to practice with the Painters in the middle of February.

Cruz, a few days before suffer-

ping past Tan Holdings.

Rintaro Miyawaki and Dylan Cho notched one goal apiece for MP United, which retained the division lead with its 5-0-0 record. Tan Holdings, which got its lone goal for Taka Borja, dropped to a 1-1-3 card.

Kanoa 5, Matansa 2

Kanoa bagged its first victory in the division after topping Matansa.

Jim Kurt Maniago, Brian Lubao, Jhoey Daniel Noble, Jaydee Jose, and Ian Karl Maniago scored for Kanoa, which settled for draws its first three matches and lost one.

John Fabia, Alex Achas, and Razeff Altamirano made one goal apiece for Matansa (1-1-3).

ing a fracture on his foot against Ginebra last year, had a breakout game where he helped ROS in pulling off a 98-95 come-from-behind win over Alaska. He scored 10 in the fourth including the Painters' last 4 points.

Rain or Shine clinched the top ranking in the PBA's second conference, which allows teams to have one foreign player, heading in to the playoff round.

TAGAMAN

From Page 28

Boyer, and Yumiko Mizuno won the women's division (3:06:53) besting the team composed of Maria Ornes, Tina Goodwin, and Angie Mister (3:30:22).

The team of Angel De Jesus, Rene Calage, and Ariel Lansangan clinched the mixed division crown with a time of 2:30:56, while the trio of Claire Seelinger, Margaret Rose, and Seven Johnson completed the race in 2:41:57.

Colin Thompson, daughter Jinju, and Kaden Church finished third (2:46:03).

Bike leg of the 26th Tagaman Triathlon

PHOTOS BY JON PEREZ



Russia's Aleksandr Dorovskikh pedals his way out of the turning point at Grotto.



Ben Allen of Australia prepares to make a turn going to the Grotto turning point.



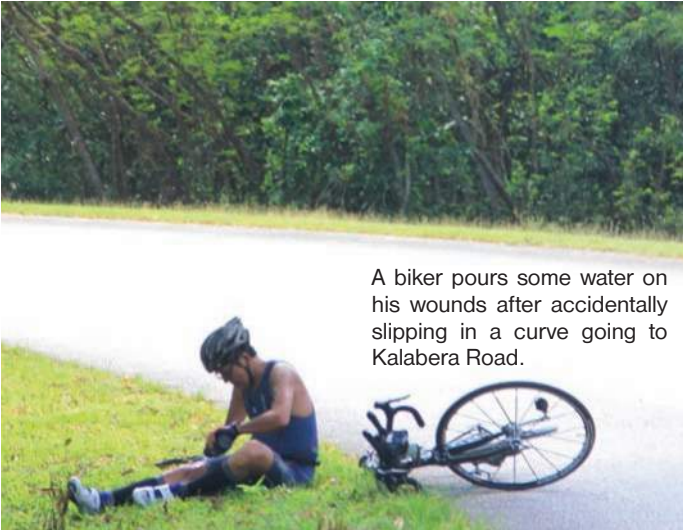
France's Olivier Marceau heads toward Grotto in the bike leg of last Saturday's 2015 Tagaman Triathlon.



A volunteer gives a water bottle to Japan's Kazuya Tamaguchi.



Kaon Cha of South Korea cruises along Kalabera Road.



A biker pours some water on his wounds after accidentally slipping in a curve going to Kalabera Road.



Daz Parker of Great Britain douses herself with water.



Guam's Mieko Carey makes her way to the Bird Island Lookout turning point.



Japan's Yasuomi Kondo, left, slows down near the Grotto turning point as compatriot Masayuki Okuno heads out.



Rep. Vinnie Sablan (Ind.-Saipan) and his family were some of the many volunteers who handed out water bottles to competitors.



Top-ranked Kentucky's toughest foe might be Kentucky

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Daniel keeps streak, solo lead

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jericho still adjusting after long layoff



KC CRUZ
Former CNMI national player Jericho Cruz, left, of Rain or Shine tries to drive past Robby Celiz of Blackwater Elite in their game in the Philippine Basketball Association Governor's Cup last week.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Rain or Shine rookie Jericho Cruz returned to action last week to help the Elasto Painters' ongoing campaign in the Philippine Basketball Association's Governor's Cup after nearly a three-month layoff.

The former CNMI national player and Marianas High School alumnus injured his left foot in the Philippine Cup. He was attempting a baseline drive when he heard his foot pop in the Painters' 100-90 win over crowd darling Barangay Ginebra last Dec. 7.

con, who played his first match against Blackwater Elite this conference, said that it was a bit like his PBA debut as he is still getting a feel of things after being out for almost three months.



See JERICO on Page 26

All-Saipan show in Tagaman relay

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

It was an all-Saipan show in the relay events of the 26th Tagaman Triathlon with a total 13 teams that were spread out in the men's, women's, and mixed divisions.

The three-member team of Crystal Pearson, Antonee Aguilar, and Jenny Yoon was the lone competing squad in the mixed recording times of 31:20 (swim), 3:11:13 (bike), and (2:23:07) in the run for a total of 6:08:40.



Akimaru



Longuski



Fortaleza

Saipan Swim Club member Kento Akimaru teamed up with Cesar Fortaleza and Keith Longuski to rule the men's division in the tough Half-Ironman distance with a combined time of 4:49:40 to beat the father-son tandem of Ben and Benjamin Babauta.

Akimaru swam the 1.9-kilometer distance in 27:15, way ahead of Benjamin Babauta's 43:14 time.

Fortaleza then completed the 90K bike course in 2:51:44, while Longuski breezed through the 21K run in 1:28:56.

The Babautas placed second with a combined time of 7:07:36 with the older Babauta logging in times of 3:18:09 and 3:01:14 in the bike and run portions of the race.

Dr. Tony Stearns and Cooper Schraudenback topped the men's shorter Olympic-distance course—1.5K swim, 40K bike, and 10K run—with the former doing the swim (22:46) and bike (1:11:42) legs, while the latter ran for 44:47 for a total time of 2:34:02.

Stearns and Schraudenback bested the young SSC trio of Rinto Takahashi, Taiga Sato, and Rintaro Miyawaki by more than 10 minutes (2:46:25).

Geuel Villacrusis, Fred Remilloba, and Ricardo Antonio finished third in the men's division with a time of 2:49:50.

Tiffany Lin, Lauri

See TAGAMAN on Page 26

Kanoa FC barges into win column

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club finally earned its first win of the season in the girls U15 division of the 2015 NMIFA Youth Spring League following a 1-0 victory over MP United FC last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Raenna Ramarui scored the

lone goal in the weekend match, hitting her target in the 48th minute to end Kanoa's five-game losing skid. MP United absorbed its fourth defeat to share similar 2-0-4 win-draw-loss record with Tan Holdings FC.

In other girls U15 results, Paire FC downed Tan Holdings, 4-1, while Shirley's FC and



Matansa settled for a 1-1 draw.

Guinevere Borja made a hat-trick in Paire's upset of Tan Holdings, giving her team a 3-3 record and the solo third spot in the team standings. Renita Fleming drilled the other goal for Paire, lighting up the board in the 28th, while Borja took over, scoring in the 34th, 46th, and 51st.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tan Holdings drew its only goal from Chevy Kate Alipio in the 43rd minute, bringing the squad's total so far to 15. With its seven-goal lead against MP United, 15-8, Tan Holdings won the tiebreak for fourth place.

In the battle for first place, Shirley's and Matansa hold identical 4-2-0 cards, but the former has the edge in goals scored, 15-11. De Jana Muna added one goal to Shirley's total after finding the back of the net in the 16th minute of last Saturday's game, while Matansa also got one from Angelica Sally.

**BOYS U15
Tan Holdings-1 8,
Paire 0**

Over at the Oleai Sports Com-

See KANOA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Kanoa Football Club goalie, second right, steps into the play to kick the ball out during their girls U15 game against MP United in the NMIFA youth league last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

